

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Far Eastern News	73
Leading Articles.—	
Kuropatkin's Prophecy	74
China's Financial Arrangements	75
Japan and Korea	76
Yunnan Railway	77
Britain's Naval Defence	77
Crime in Hongkong	78
Random Reflections	78
Hongkong News	79
Assault on the S.S. "Korea"	79
Death of Mr. A. P. Marty	79
Supreme Court	80
Resignation of Mr. Justice Wise	80
Retirement of Mr. Dyer Ball	80
A Plausible Burglar	80
Larceny from a Boarding House	80
Hongkong Benevolent Society	81
Tired of Life	81
Japan Notes	82
Craigengower Cricket Club's New Pavilion	83
Kulangsu (Amoy) Municipal Council	84
Unlicensed Pawnbrokers	85
China New Year	85
German Emperor's Birthday	85
The Manila Carnival	85
Serious Shooting Affray at Yaumati	86
Funeral of Lance-Sergeant Mills	86
Correspondence:—	
Hongkong Football Club and the Shanghai Invitation	86
The Yunnan Railway	86
St. John's Cathedral	87
The China Association	87
International Opium Commission	88
Company Reports:—	
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co.	89
Hongkong Land Reclamation Co., Ltd.	89
West Point Building Company	89
Hongkong Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.	89
China Provident Loan and Mortgage Co., Ltd.	90
Half Yearly Dividends	90
Public Company Meetings:—	
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd.	91
Hongkong Land Reclamation Company	91
West Point Building Company	91
Campbell, Moore & Co., Ltd.	91
Steamship Passage Rates	91
Shipping Notes	92
The Korean Emperor's Tour	92
Far Eastern Telegrams	92
Hongkong Appointments	92
Local Sport	93
Another Burglary	93
Formosan Sugar	93
Shipping at Saigon	93
Commercial	94
Shipping	96

BIRTHS.

On January 3rd, at Hankow, to Mr. and Mrs. E. M. REYNOLDS, a son.
 On January 6th, at Shanghai, the wife of Mr. DAVID LANDALE, of a daughter.
 On the 10th instant at "Cragside" The Peak, the wife of A. H. SKELTON, of a son.
 On the 12th inst. at Victoria Hospital, Hongkong Mrs. A. RAMSAY, of a son.
 On January 15th at Shanghai, to the wife of O. H. RITTER, a son.
 On January 15th, at Shanghai, the wife of the Rev. R. G. WINNING, of a daughter.
 On 26th January, at "Villa Branca," Robinson Road, Hongkong, the wife of Mr. JOSE M. ALVES, of a son.

DEATHS.

On January 11th, at Kulangsu, Amoy, JOHN PHILLIPS, late Chief Constable of the British Concession, Amoy. Aged 77 years.
 On January 5th, at Shanghai, EMILIE, the beloved mother of CHARLES IBURG, aged 74 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of the 30th December last arrived per s.s. *P. R. Luitpold*, on the 19th ultimo.

The French Mail of the 1st Jan. arrived to-day per M. M. steamer *Salazie*.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

A large number of forged banknotes are in circulation in Indo-China.

Many Chinese at Bangkok are said to have recently discarded the queue.

Miss Gilchrist, the wealthy lady who was mysteriously murdered in a Glasgow flat, has by her will bequeathed £5,000 to Mr. James Johnston, Shanghai.

Mr. R. W. E. Dalrymple has resigned the appointment of British Vice-Consul at Sourabaya from the 1st ult. Mr. A. C. Ballingal now acts as British Consul there.

The new naval dock at Sasebo, which is reputed to be the largest yet constructed in the East, is now fast approaching completion and is expected to be opened shortly.

A telegram to Tokyo from London states that the advance in silver has been due to large orders coming from China, and to purchases of the metal on behalf of China.

Mr. E. M. Janion of the Chartered Bank has been appointed agent at Batavia. Mr. J. Campbell another member of the Bank's staff well known in the East, has just been married at Batavia.

A Chinese newspaper published in Peking is responsible for the statement that, on the Dalai Lama's departure from Peking, the Russian Minister made him a present of 20,000 Teels, and the Dalai Lama in acknowledgement gave the Minister 24 "jo-ses."

Captain C. W. Mead, who died suddenly last week at Manila, will be known to many in Hongkong and Canton as the former chief engineer of the Canton-Hankow railway. He died at the Army and Navy Club from acute gastritis. The widow and family are in Europe.

The Board of War at Peking recently wired to the various military departments instructing that, hereafter, all arms used by Chinese troops should be obtained from Chinese arsenals. Foreign weapons should only be purchased when the local supplies are found insufficient.

It is gazetted that Miss E. Finch, an American, living at No 43, Wakamatsu-cho Yokohama, has been naturalized as a Japanese subject. It is said that she is the first foreign lady to be naturalized in Japan. Miss Finch belongs to the Independent Branch of the Evangelical Association of North America.

The strike among sailors at Manila seems to be far from overcome yet. The agitators are inciting railway operatives to strike. Some arrests have been made in connection with the strike.

Most Shanghai residents, says the *N. C. Daily* news, were surprised, on awaking on the morning of the 20th Jan., to find that there had been a heavy fall of snow during the night. Roofs, trees and roads were carpeted in white, and, doubtless, this accounted for many smiles on the faces of the Chinese who regarded this belated snowfall as a happy augury for the coming Chinese year.

The Japanese Training Squadron, consisting of the *Soya* and *Aso*, with a number of graduates from the Naval Engineering College on board, will leave Yokosuka towards the end of February on a training cruise. It will make its way to a point on the coast south of San Francisco, and then turn north in order to visit the Seattle Exhibition. On its return route it will visit Vancouver and Hawaii.

We learn from a Manila contemporary that Messrs Wm. H. Anderson and Company representing the Green Island Cement Company, last week received the award for furnishing 30,000 barrels of their product to the Philippine Railway Company, at Iloilo and Cebu. The above, says our contemporary, is one of the many large contracts recently awarded Anderson and Co., whose celebrated Green Island cement ranks high by test, with advantageous price.

The Emperor of China is ill of confluent small pox. On the 20th inst. an Imperial Rescript was issued making it known that the young Emperor would not attend the temporary burial of his predecessor in the mountains, but as that event does not take place until the 1st of May, the announcement did not suggest an illness. The Rescript says the Emperor regards it as a duty to his predecessor to attend the funeral, but he yields in the matter to the wish of the Empress Dowager who says he is too young.

Owing, says a Chinese contemporary, to the fact that serious diplomatic complications are often caused by the molesting and robbing of foreigners travelling in the provinces by the ignorant country people, the Wai-wu-pu has proposed to the Government that in future when foreigners apply for permits to go to the interior, whether on business or for pleasure, the high officials of the provinces through which they pass should be furnished with full particulars of the travellers and the reasons for their journeys and be requested to instruct their subordinates to publish the same in all public places for the information of the people. The Government view this proposal very favourably.

The Salvation Army, in Java, has started on a new line of work by taking up Government contracts, through its Commander, at Samarang. It has contracted to supply the Government hospitals there with rations and other supplies. The contract runs from 1909 to 1913. The Salvationists have also taken over the management of the Government Leper hospital there for a while on trial. They had offered to run the establishment in return for a grant-in-aid from Government. The patients dislike the arrangement, from fear that they would be compelled to follow strict rules and be made to work for the benefit of the Army. The subsidy is less than the Government outlay on the Asylum.

The *Indian Gazette* announces that Major M. E. Willoughby has been appointed British military attaché at Peking.

The returns of cultivated rubber exported from the Federated Malay States in 1908 show a total export of 1,413 tons which is better by no less than 527 tons than the export in 1907.

The s.s. *Hanping*, which sunk in the river at Shanghai at the end of October and remained under water until December 30, was dry-docked at the Old Dock, Shanghai, last week.

On receipt of the news of Admiral Rozhdestvensky's death a courteous telegram of condolence was sent to the family by Admiral Togo, through the Naval Attaché to the Russian Embassy in Tokyo.

A census of Formosa taken at the end of 1907 has just been published. It shows a population of 3,108,723, including 79,925 Japanese, 3,018,402 natives and 11,396 foreigners. About 120,000 aborigines are excluded from the above list.

There will be general congratulations from numerous friends in Singapore, says a Southern contemporary, on the occasion of the engagement of Dr. W. R. C. Middleton, Municipal Health Officer, to Mrs. Brooke Hunt, sister of Mrs. Freer.

A committee has been formed at Shanghai to take in hand the work of collecting subscriptions and raising funds for the relief of those rendered homeless and destitute by the recent calamity in Italy. Mr. A. McLeod is president and Mr. G. Passeri hon. secretary.

The Viceroy of Yunnan, H. E. Shih Liang, has wired to the Wai-wu-pu stating that the French have established a Post Office at Meng-tze Kwan. As this, the Viceroy says, constitutes a breach of the commercial treaty, he asks the Wai-wu-pu to notify the French Minister so that he may order its withdrawal.

The Anti-Opium movement in Peking is being effectively carried on, says our metropolitan contemporary, but there are still several Princesses and families of high officials who have so far been overlooked. The Anti Opium Bureau now proposes to open a special department for treating female cases so that the habit may be abolished among these.

Inspector Quincey, formerly of Hongkong, and now Chief of Police at Chinanfu, arrived in Shanghai last week on a brief visit, having three months' leave of absence. It is a rumoured that Mr. Quincey has been approached by the Shanghai Taotai to take the Paoshen Police Force in hand and train it.

His Excellency the Governor of the Straits Settlements, the *Straits Times* understands, will probably leave for home by the mail sailing about the middle of February. His Excellency will be away some three months altogether, and during his absence the duties of Officer Administering the Government will be undertaken by the Colonial Secretary, Sir Arthur Young, K.C.M.G.

Bangkok papers record the death of Mr. John Kilgour Black who had resided in the Siamese capital since 1872. He was an engineer and in his time had superintended the erection of a large number of the rice mills in the country. The death is also announced of Mr. Theodore F. Western, of the firm of the General Electric Company of the United States of America. Mr. Western only arrived in Bangkok in December for the purpose of examining and putting right the big Curtis turbine engine at the Siam Electricity Co.'s power station. He died of smallpox.

The first instalment of the relief fund raised in Japan for the earthquake sufferers in Italy, amounting to 200,000 lire (about Y78,000) was telegraphically remitted to the Italian Government through Mr. Hayashi, the Ambassador at Rome, on the 11th inst. It is reported that the subscriptions sent in to the Red Cross fund for the relief of sufferers by the Messina earthquake already total 400,000 yen, and it is expected that before the lists opened in various quarters close the aggregate will exceed half a million. Professor Omori, of the faculty of Tokyo University, and Professor Nakamura, Professor of Architecture at the University, have now been definitely instructed to proceed to Italy to make investigations concerning the earthquake.

The ex-Grand Councillor H. E. Yuan Shih Kai arrived at Wia-fie-fu on the 6th instant, and wired to the Grand Council that he will rest there temporarily. This request has been sanctioned by the Regent, says our Peking contemporary, and accordingly the Grand Council have replied, by wire, conveying compliments and urging him to nurse his sickness carefully.

Mr. F. S. A. Bourne, H.B.M.'s acting Judge for China and Korea, is shortly coming down to Canton, to try two Admiralty cases. The first case is that of the owners of the Chinese junk *Man On* (for whom Mr. Loftus E. P. Jones has been retained) versus Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, owners of the s.s. *Nanchang*. The claimants in the other case are also the owners of a native junk and they sue the Yik On steamship company, owners of the s.s. *Tai On* for damages.

Mr. G. W. Noel, being the only nominee by registered landowners, has been elected Land Commissioner for the Foreign Settlement of Shanghai for 1909. The following gentlemen are candidates for election as Councillors for the Foreign Community at Shanghai for the ensuing year:—Messrs. H. de Gray, F. C. Heffer, H. du F. Hutchison, D. Landale, W. D. Little, H. A. J. Macray, O. Meuser, W. A. C. Platt, J. Prentice, T. E. Trueman. Only six of these ten were members of the old Council and a poll of the ratepayers is necessary.

A Tonkin paper calls attention to the increasing importance of Saigon, and its extraordinary commercial development, as a striking example of French colonising enterprise. Every year, that port goes ahead in a remarkable manner, the population increases rapidly and builders never find business slack. The tonnage frequenting the port rose from 834,340 tons in 1903 to 1,695,315 tons in 1907. The volume of trade in imports and exports together shot up from a value of over 259 millions of francs in 1902 to nearly 392 millions in 1907.

During last year the number of plague cases at Rangoon was 1,109—about the same number as in Hongkong. In 1907 the public brought to the Sanitary department at Rangoon 1,157,148 rats and the Plague staff caught 40,602. In 1908, the Plague Staff's record was 110,696, and the public contribution 731,712. The Health Officer comments:—This decrease is entirely satisfactory. The large rat reward had encouraged, a very big system of swindling. Rats in enormous numbers were being brought in by contractors from the jungle and the paddy fields, and retailed to large numbers of coolies, who brought them to the depots in small numbers for the reward. This system has to a very large extent been broken down and the diminution in the number of rats brought by the public means simply diminished fraud and lessening of effective action. The plague officers are now in closer touch with the section of the community which brings in rats and know where and how the rats are caught.

On New Year's Day, the Management of the Peking-Hankow Railway was taken over by the Chinese Authorities from the Belgian Company, by whom it had been built and operated for the Chinese Government. To celebrate the occasion, H.E. Liang Shih-yi, Director-General of the Chinese Imperial Railways, held a reception at the Railway office, Peking, at which besides the principal Railway officers, Sir Walter Hillier, Dr. Morrison, Mr. J. O. P. Bland, and others were present. In a speech ably translated in French by Mr. Lou, Administrator-in-Chief of the Traffic Department, H.E. Liang said that as the Chinese Government had taken over the line, it was now for the first time under the management of a Chinese office. He thanked all present for having responded to his invitation to celebrate the occasion. The Chinese Government was sincerely grateful to the Belgian Company to whom the building of the line was due; and it was not forgetful of the many difficulties that had been encountered in the progress of the work. His Excellency further eulogized the excellent manner in which Mr. H. Prud'homme, the Belgian Company's representative, had fulfilled his duties of General-Manager of the line. Mr. Prud'homme and he had always been on the most friendly terms, and still remained so, although the management of the Railway had now passed into Chinese hands. Mr. Prud'homme answered in suitable terms.

KUROPATKIN'S PROPHECY.

(Daily Press, 22nd January.)

In *McClure's Magazine* for the current month we have the final instalment of the translation of General KUROPATKIN's suppressed book on the war. Although in the previous instalments we have had very trenchant criticism of the discipline of the army in the field under "officers who could not lead," the author has not a shadow of doubt of Russia's eventual success, had the war been prolonged. "Never in our military history," he says, "has Russia sent out forces of such strength as in September 1905 when we unexpectedly received the fatal news that an agreement between our representatives and the Japanese had been reached at Portsmouth." By that time, he goes on to explain, they had rid themselves largely of the older reserves by sending them to the rear-guard and had obtained in exchange several hundred thousand young men—new recruits, enlisted as regulars, a great proportion of whom had volunteered to join the army. For the first time since the beginning of the war the army was filled up to its full complement. An army of a million men, well organised, seasoned by fighting and supplied with officers upon whom they could thoroughly rely, were preparing to continue the bloody conflict with the Japanese, when, owing to "painful internal disorders, and a hostile or, at best, indifferent sentiment among the Russian public toward the war" an "unfortunate peace" was concluded by Russia. The result of this premature conclusion of peace he says, is that that the "Yellow Peril," only recently foreseen, has now arrived. It is in the author's summing up of the lessons of the war that we are now chiefly interested. Consolation is derived from the consciousness which the war gave to Russia that her Western neighbours are not cherishing any plans of conquest so far as Russia is concerned. Complications had been feared and this fear, General KUROPATKIN says, influenced the fortunes of the war, because her best troops were withheld to defend Russia when they should have been at the front in the Far East. He goes on to point out that the chief work of the Russian army in the last two hundred years has consisted in the enlargement of the Empire's boundaries on the North-West and on the South, and the result has been that the boundaries of the Empire have begun to be surrounded by a population "not sufficiently amalgamated" with the Russian people. In this respect, he says Russia's frontiers now are less favourable in a military sense than they were in 1700. Russia, in her frontier of 11,000 miles, contiguous to nine different kingdoms needs, in his opinion, no alterations in her boundary lines. In a Report to the Emperor in 1900, he wrote:—

"However legitimate may be our desire to possess outlets from the Black Sea and upon the Indian and Pacific Oceans, yet these matters affect the interest of almost the entire world so deeply that if we started to secure them, we should have to prepare for a conflict against a coalition consisting of England, Germany, Turkey, Austria, and China and Japan. It is not the mere fact of Russia's movement toward this or that of the outlets just mentioned that is terrible to these Powers, but the consequences that would ensue should the attempt be successful. The possession of the Bosphorus and of an outlet to the Mediterranean Sea would enable us to take decisive action in the Egyptian question, in order to make the Suez Canal international. An outlet on the Indian Ocean would constitute a permanent threat to India. But the thing certain, most of all, to frighten the more cultured peoples of Europe and America, which furnish

the whole world with the products of their factories and foundries, would be Russia's entrance into competition with them for the world's market. Holding in our hands railway lines connecting the Pacific Ocean and the Baltic Sea, and having outlets to the Mediterranean and the Indian and Pacific Oceans, Russia, with her inexhaustible natural wealth, would become a formidable commercial competitor to the powers of the entire world.

"In view of the vast bodies of armed forces that the nations concerned possess, it is obvious that neither in the eighteenth nor the nineteenth centuries have we encountered such difficulties and dangers as we should inevitably encounter in wars in the twentieth century waged in conflicts for warm seas. The forces of the present generation might prove insufficient for the attainment of possessions necessary only to future generations. More than that, an examination of our military forces might lead to the conclusion that the execution of new tasks, indispensable for the Russia of the year 2,000—with its 400,000,000 of population—is not only beyond the strength of the generation now living, but that now, in consequence of the relatively greater military preparedness of our neighbours, even the maintenance of Russia's present boundaries in their integrity would become extremely difficult."

That is an eminently satisfactory view of the Russian position so far as the world at large is concerned, but General KUROPATKIN shares with H.M. the KAISER an overwhelming dread of the "Yellow Peril." He has always, he says, been a thoroughly convinced advocate of the idea that peaceful co-operation between Russia and England in Asia was imperative, and an opponent of all offensive plans in the direction of India. Establishment of friendly relations with England is not only natural but desirable, he says, "for, in the event of a rebellion against England in India, we should be on the side of the English." The twentieth century, in General KUROPATKIN's opinion, is bound to bring a terrible conflict in Asia between Christian and non-Christian races, and he adds: "For the good of humanity, it is imperative and necessary that in the conflict we should be the ally of Christian England against the non-Chinese races of Asia." Sir ROBERT HART, on the other hand, has been comforting the world with the reflection that the development of China as a military power will afford a guarantee of permanent international peace. Time alone will decide which is the true prophet. No man can say what will happen, but we should imagine that the cultural progress of the Asiatic races, the growing success of diplomacy and the development of international commerce, combined with an almost entire absence of religious fanaticism in Asia, all tend to discredit the bogey of a great conflict in which the whole military strength of non-Christian Asia will be measured against the amalgamated forces of Christian Europe.

CHINA'S FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.

(Daily Press, January 26th)

That the present Chinese administration is thoroughly in earnest in its desire to bring the financial arrangements of the Empire into order is clearly evident: the task is, however, a gigantic one, and will need all the energies of the Government to be devoted to it for many years to come. Peking is undoubtedly quite correct in stating that the greater part of the present financial difficulties of the Empire proceed from the mal-administration of the provinces, yet, in view of the equally unchallengeable fact that these provincial shortcomings are to be traced directly to the irregular and ever increasing exactions of the Imperial Household at Peking, it would lead to an entirely

false impression were we to affirm that the provinces were mainly, or even largely, to blame for present condition. Of late years expenses have been growing, partly due to natural and proper reasons such as a general reduction in the purchasing power of the silver currency, and largely to the necessity for increasing the efficiency of the Government by appointing officials, as for instance ministers abroad, as heads of new departments, &c. But, unfortunately, besides these the late Regency permitted the Palace expenses to increase beyond all bounds, and certain of the private officials were permitted to levy contributions on their own account above and beyond those authorised by the various legitimate spending departments. It has been these last that have thrown the finances of the Empire into confusion, and have led to the gross irregularities complained of on the part of the high provincial officials. Very properly the new Regency expresses its displeasure at the evil use made of the directions to issue a new coinage, and points out that contrary to the expressed intention of the Throne the issue has been turned into a source of private profit by the high provincial officers. When we come to look deeper we find that though blameworthy the crime of the provincials was led up to, and rendered practically unavoidable through the still greater crime of the late Regency. Practically that Regency found that all offices were made matters of purchase, and that each post had its assessed value. The system was bad, and led to a false understanding of the relations between Government and People, but it had continued for so long that its worst effects were in a manner tempered by custom. The reorganisation of the State after the great Taiping Rebellion, and the Foreign Wars made an increase in the contributions necessary, and had this been done in a proper, straightforward and statesmanlike manner, they could have been met without debauching the administration. Unfortunately they were exacted in a secret, and almost surreptitious manner, by private gifts from the officials, which the latter were compelled to meet at the risk of being accused of extortion or malversation. This was not the worst: still more demoralising was the system of "vails" that now came to be carried to an excess never before dreamt of. The eunuchs about the Court have ever had an evil reputation, but during the late Regency it came to be an understood thing that certain of the eunuchs had been made responsible for the expenses of the Palace, and that over and above the contributions for the upkeep of the Government, regular or irregular, no provincial official could hope to remain in undisturbed occupation of his office, unless he contributed handsomely to the always irregular Palace expenses. The last of these enforced levies has been the most shameless, and at the same time the most far-reaching in its evil effects on the Government of the Empire. On the capture of Peking by the combined foreign forces, rendered necessary by the insane "Boxer" movement, patronised by the reactionary element in the Government itself, certain stipulations were agreed to as to the future administration of China; one of these concerned the currency, which the Government of the day promised to put on a proper basis. It was not pretended that there was any hardship about this; on the contrary it had been often spoken about in Peking, and only prevented being attempted by the extreme reactionaries. As it could not be delayed, the ingenuity of those who desired to wreck it was exercised, and proved equal to the occasion. A new currency was to be

issued on lines set forth by Peking, but was to be issued by the provincials; these were told that the issue would be abundantly profitable, and were made to pay up accordingly for the right of coining. The new coinage was much needed, the old having been nearly exhausted, so the people took kindly to it. "Now was the time," Peking said; "you're making more money out of this than we intended: you must share the plunder." Meanwhile there were ominous signs of over-issue, and values began to drop: but as Peking had to be paid, the issue went on. Japan and America were exploited for copper: ships came loaded with it; and at home on river and coast its carriage brought in a little harvest to the owners of the steamers: but the thing could not last, the farmers were nearly ruined by the depreciation in the currency, and at last the Provincials, finding the country could absorb no more, at any price, had to close their mints. What happened with copper on a huge scale also in smaller proportions occurred with silver. The Provincials were encouraged to mint, but had, whether they liked it or not, to fee Peking. As they found they could not pay the calls with honest money, they commenced to debase. With dollars which had to face the local issues of taels this could not be carried on to any extent, but with subsidiary coins there seemed an inexhaustible fountain of wealth: larger and larger issues were made; and as the exchange value fell, so in proportion did the alloy, till as in the former case the coins became literally a drug on the market, and would not be accepted at any price. Here as before, Peking, though ready enough to vilify the Provincials, was itself all along the really guilty perpetrator. Nominally there was a standard alloy, but Peking well knew that honest coin could not afford to meet the Palace demands. So it was presumed that there was to be some check on the amount of the issue, but Peking, ignorant and careless of the first principles of finance, demanded vails on the same scale, whatever was the local demand, and, as before, the game ran on merrily till the over-burdened machine came to a dead stop.

But the Legations?—What were they doing? Probably the Legations were nearly as much to blame for what happened as the Chinese Government itself. It is not pretended that they had any corrupt interest in the debasement of the currency, but they had, what in the event turned out as dangerous, an intense and insuperable ignorance of the whole question; deceived by false information, which their ignorance did not permit them to gainsay, they looked upon these measures as a fulfilment of the pledges of China to reform the currency. Doubtless to a large extent the same might be urged on behalf of the Chinese Government, whether in the Capital or the provinces. But is ignorance in such a case any excuse? We hardly think it is, seeing that information was readily available in both cases. China is beginning to learn from hard experience, what she might have readily learnt from others, had she chosen to apply herself to the task. But the practical lesson has not yet gone deep enough, and there is the same desire to have recourse to the empiric. One of the quack medicines held up to the view of the new statesman is that if he apply to the new scheme the name of Banking all will be fair. He has only to substitute bank notes for copper coins or subsidiary currency, and all will go right. The new complaint is that foreign banks and foreigners generally fight shy of Chinese bank notes. Is not a Chinese note as well printed as a foreign, and does it not make

the same promise of paying to bearer on demand? The promise is the same, it forgets, whether written on paper or struck on the face of a copper coin. Certain of these coins were issued bearing the inscription, "equivalent to ten cash," and had certain very obvious precautions been taken to prevent over-issue, and did the provincial officers really fulfil the implied obligation of being ready to exchange them on demand, they would in the market to-day have been freely exchangeable for that amount. Unfortunately there were no precautions taken that the issue should be restricted in any way, so it naturally came about that at the moment they are exchangeable for little above their actual value as a copper alloy. Now is there any practical difference between this and the bank note? The Provincial Treasury agrees to give for every note on presentation its face equivalent, but no one knows whether it has issued five, or five millions of these notes; so, while no one doubts the intention, they fear that the Treasury would not be equal to the strain, and would not be able to redeem its promise, in which case the note would be in even harder case than the coin, inasmuch as it has absolutely no intrinsic value whatever. Some years ago under the auspices of the Government of China was started the Imperial Bank of China; foreigners saw that it was honestly and properly managed, so when on one occasion the ignorant crowd made a run on its notes, the other banks, on being shown that it was properly managed, and had the assets, did not hesitate to come to its help, without questioning whether it was Chinese or foreign. But strangely, though it is really a Chinese bank, and was given the right to name itself the *Imperial Bank of China*, it has never been made the repository of Imperial Chinese money, but has been left out in the cold to make what money it could by ordinary private banking. Lately, the Chinese Government itself has been complaining that the Bank was not able to make money like the other banks, because it did not have branches all over the world; and so could not do exchange business, and the proposition has been made that such branches should be opened under the authority of the Chinese Government, and that it should hold the Government funds abroad. Now there is nothing to be said in principle against this; and it certainly would be a considerable saving to the Government at Peking did it have such a bank in London, so as to gain itself from remittances the profit now passing to the foreign bank. This is quite correct reasoning; and such a bank would be welcomed as an indication that China really wished to place herself in finance, as in other things, alongside the rest of the world. But we have seen that China long ago promised the same thing with regard to funds nearer home, but has never kept the promise, principally, it is believed because the Imperial Bank was too strict for the loose financial methods which have grown up about Imperial as well as Provincial finance. In case of the Imperial Bank opening such branches, to obtain standing amongst the other foreign banks it would be essential that it should, as it has done hitherto, submit to equally stringent regulations. The very chiefest of these would have to be that its exchange operations should exclude the possibility of gambling, for which foreign exchanges might offer a likely field, and should be as rigorous in its requirement for "cover" as the best of the foreign banks. In this as in other things the new Regency, starting as it does with the best auspices, and disencumbered by the bad traditions of the past, has a clear field before it. The late

Emperor, despite his feeble health and his misfortunes, was always popular with the nation at large, who felt that he had always the best interests of his people at heart, so that his brother, who has shown a similar disposition, starts with this prestige in his favour and will find his progress towards reform vastly smoothed. After all the Chinese, who, when roused, are very consistent, are by no means disposed to attempt the impossible; and will be found ready to support all conservative reforms, not aimed at subversion.

JAPAN AND KOREA.

(Daily Press, 27th January.)

A notable speech of more than passing interest was delivered the other day to a Korean audience by the Resident-General, Prince ITO. Its purpose was evidently to attract the sympathy and co-operation of the literati of whom the speaker's audience of over four hundred persons was mainly composed. There is still among the Koreans a considerable body of opposition to Japan's intervention in the affairs of the country. "The Insurrection" is still a standing headline in the Japanese-owned daily paper published at Seoul in English, and that Prince ITO has found it necessary to argue before an audience of educated Koreans, as he did in the speech we have alluded to indicates that passive resistance in influential circles is a force which has yet to be reckoned with. It would appear from the opening of the speech that the recent journey undertaken by the Emperor of Korea, accompanied by the Resident-General, in the depth of winter, in order to view the conditions under which the people live had given rise to a suspicion that the journey was undertaken "for other motives at present concealed." The Prince doubtless knew the men he was addressing, and he impressively declared that men who were so presumptuous as to think thus of His Majesty must be regarded as "extreme examples of men unreasonably suspecting their ruler." We can only form an idea of the nature of that suspicion from the fact that the eminent speaker plunged at once into a statement of Japan's objects in Korea, and a striking disavowal of any idea of usurpation. The primary object of ancient heroes, he reminded his audience, seemed to have been almost invariably, invasion and usurpation of the land of others; but this, he told them, was not the idea of modern statesmanship. To an intelligent Eastern audience such a statement cannot appear convincing. When they recall the history which has been made in Asia during the last ten or fifteen years they will have some difficulty in perceiving any marked dissimilarity between the results of modern statesmanship and the acts of ancient adventurers. However, it was the object of the Prince to justify Japan's presence in Korea, and he told his audience that the guiding principle of a modern State was co-operation and harmony with its neighbours, that it is the duty of a strong country to help the weak, to guide it along the paths of progress to wealth and strength, so that it may contribute to the common defence. Japan's only aim and desire in Korea, he emphatically said, is to have the situation changed for the better, to guide her people to enlightenment and industry, to assist her to the enjoyment of the blessings of a civilisation similar to that enjoyed by Japan, and thus prepare her for co-operation with her Japanese guides. "Supposing, for argument's sake," he said, "that

there was a country which cherished the secret desire of possessing itself of one of the countries adjacent to it, and disguised its real policy by an apparent friendship for, and assistance towards, its future victim, would it be possible that such country would take measures calculated to promote the education of its doomed neighbours, to encourage their industry and, above all, to cultivate their ruler's virtue and goodness so that they might live in peace?" It all amounts to this: that Japan's policy in Korea is similar to that of the United States in the Philippines. It is not a policy of permanent conquest; it is a policy of assimilation. The Prince flattered his audience by telling them that neither physically nor in mental capacity were they inferior to the Japanese, and if he had thought the regeneration of the country beyond his power he would never have attempted the task, and would never have tried to protect her or to secure her well-being. The speech, the report says, produced an impression so profound as to move many in the audience to tears of gratitude. It will be admitted that it was a speech admirably calculated to serve the purpose for which it was intended, but it is hardly suited to foreign consumption. That Japan is doing splendid work in Korea is obvious to all observers, but for anyone to entertain the idea that her aim is entirely unselfish and purely philanthropic would be the height of folly. In setting her hand to the gigantic task of reforming the entire administration of a nation, and imbuing a population of ten million souls with ideas and aims similar to her own, Japan quite legitimately calculates not only upon the greater security of her interests from the military point of view, but upon the commercial advantages which may confidently be expected to accrue from altered conditions promoting the progress and wealth of the nation. In many of the books which have been written since Japan took up her task in Korea the impression is given that, in spite of the fact that the basic principles of her policy are declared to be the "open door" and "equal opportunity for all" she is relentlessly pursuing a policy of exclusion. In one of Mr. PUTNAM WEALE's books he supports a statement of this nature by quoting statistics with regard to British trade with Korea in 1906, when it sank to about £5,000. He did not stop to inquire into the reason for this, but left his reader with the impression that a decline of something like £35,000 in one year had been due to a sensational advance in Japanese influence, commerce and industry. As a matter of fact, Japan's trade with Korea showed no advance in 1906; on the contrary there was a slight decline. Imports from Great Britain, which are mainly in the piece-goods line, were exceptionally heavy in the two preceding years, and the heavy drop in 1906 was attributable to the glut in the market due to over-speculation on the part of the importers. Had the reasons assigned by Mr. WEALE been the true cause of the decline, we would have been justified in expecting to find that British trade with Korea had by now entirely ceased. We find on the contrary that for the year 1907 the value of the British trade with Korea was £420,000. This is a sufficient reply to the criticism enshrined in Mr. WEALE's book. Japan's proximity to the Korean market ensures for her the largest share in the trade, but as the last British consular report shows a substantial advance in every line of British imports during the last five years, the British manufacturer and merchant have not much cause yet to regret that Korea has virtually become a province of Japan.

THE YUNNAN RAILWAY.

(Daily Press, January 28th.)

By the end of this year or early in the next it will be possible to travel from Hongkong to Yunnan-fu in a week. We have some recollection of a British Consular report which mentioned among the benefits conferred by this line the provision of sanatoria for Indo-China, and even Bangkok, Singapore and Hongkong, for the lake district of Yunnan the Consul described as a "terrestrial paradise" or said it could be made such if a check were put upon the ruthless destruction of timber which has been going on in the district now for some years past. But, however beautiful and health-giving the lake district of Yunnan may be, the tourist traffic from Hongkong and Singapore will not be likely to appreciably affect the Company's revenue. The project has proved an inordinately costly one, and though the railway may yield good returns and materially add to the economic resources of Indo-China, as the French Foreign Affairs Committee anticipates it will do, we venture to think that it is extremely doubtful whether the line will pay interest on the capital invested for many years to come. It will be seen from the summary of a report presented to the French Chamber last month, which we print in another column, that the initial cost of the line will amount to nearly double the original estimate. "Costly errors" have been committed and have had to be paid for, and the company must have had an enormous bill to meet for compensation and hospital arrangements. The extremely malarious character of some of the districts traversed by the line was responsible for an appalling sick-list and death rate. In 1905 when the road was being made through the Nam-ti Valley the Commissioner of Customs at Mengtze wrote that "the death rate among the coolies imported from various parts of the Empire and put to work in this dreaded valley may, without exaggeration, be estimated at 5,000, or 70 per cent of the total number employed on that particular section of the line." It will be readily understood too that the rate of wages demanded for work in these death-dealing regions was far from normal, and this combined with the Syndicate's liability to provide compensation and medical aid in case of sickness, must have contributed very materially to upset all previous calculations of cost. Then, again, alterations in the route have been made, and much of the extra cost is set down to these deviations from the original plans.

At the time this project was conceived Great Britain was contemplating the penetration of Yunnan by a line from Burma. A section of the projected line from Mandalay to Kung-lung on the frontier was actually under construction when PRINCE HENRI OF ORLEANS began an agitation for a "retort to this new movement of England" with a similar one by France. "To this end" he wrote "it is absolutely necessary for us also to have a railway penetrating China" and M. PAUL DOUMER, who at that time was Governor-General of Indo-China, took up the matter with his accustomed energy. Yunnan and Szechuan seemed to him to be reserved for commercial exploitation by France, and by pointing out that France would have the advantage if she at once bestirred herself, thanks to the facility for reaching Yunnan derived from their footing in the Valley of the Red River, he succeeded in winning the enthusiastic support of his Government for the scheme. The concession was speedily obtained from the Chinese Government, but

it was not till five years later that the work of construction was actually commenced. Now the completion of the line is in sight, but the British scheme of penetration from Burma has not yet passed beyond the stage of academical discussion, and seems unlikely to do so if the route then contemplated is the best. Lord CURZON described the idea as "midsummer madness," and said that in his belief there had been a greater lack both of exact knowledge and of perspective in the treatment of this matter of building a railway across Yunnan to the Yangtse, and a looser rein given to the imagination than in almost any subject of contemporaneous politics. But there appear to be other avenues of progress besides the one which was then under consideration and the EARL OF RONALDSHAY, M.P., in his recent book makes out a good case for a line from Bhamo to Tali-fu, which is the old trade route. Mr. COLQUHOUN in "Across Chryse" discusses such a scheme and says it would never be carried out "except in the brain of an impractical theorist" for no engineer, he imagines, would "waste a thought upon such an idle dream." Mr. COLQUHOUN, as every one knows, has a scheme of his own. We cannot pretend to say which is the most practical; it is a question for the experts. But as it becomes more clearly demonstrated that the French line to Yunnan menaces the existing trade of India with the province, and as its political significance becomes more generally appreciated we may surely expect to see some serious attempts made to bring this question within the range of practical politics.

BRITAIN'S NAVAL DEFENCE.

(Daily Press, January 29th.)

The telegraphic information which we published yesterday to the effect that the British Admiralty contemplated the reduction of the Channel Fleet and the creation of a new North Sea Fleet is significant of the greater consideration which is at present being given to the defence of Great Britain. The proposed redistribution of the fleets need not be regarded as a threat to any particular country, nor need it be deemed an attempt to appease the alarmists who continually point to the possibility of invasion. There are good reasons—powerful commercial reasons—for refusing to believe in the likelihood of any of the leading nations of Europe coming to blows, and a dispassionate review of the circumstances will prove beyond doubt that the prospective re-arrangement of the fleets is dictated by purely naval considerations and not by a desire to antagonise Germany or still further encourage the feeling which is expressed in the term Anglophobia. When we recollect all the efforts that have been made and are being made to promote a better understanding between the two nations, the interchange of visits of representative people, and—most important of all—the proposed visit of King EDWARD to Germany, there can be little doubt that there is a real and genuine wish in both Germany and Britain that the relations between them should be of the most cordial nature, and that nothing should be allowed to interrupt the progress of two of the leaders in the march of civilisation. Some who are eager to stir up strife may seize upon this project as a threat to Germany, but it is no more directed towards that Power than the institution of the Volunteer movement or the formation of the Territorial Army. Naval conditions are always changing, Great Britain is no longer the only power on the sea. Other navies have arisen,

and naturally they are not without their effect on British naval policy. Generally speaking, the redistribution indicated is only a continuation of the policy enunciated under a Conservative Administration when the establishment of a naval base at Rosyth in the Firth of Forth was decided. That proposition, when first made public, aroused some criticism in Germany, but, after all, there could be no disguising the fact that the project was only a belated recognition of an imperative need that had long existed. For years it has been felt that the Scottish coasts were inadequately protected, and the creation of a base in the northern kingdom, while justified by naval considerations, might also be regarded as a concession to Scottish demands for a share of the work done at naval centres, which was previously a monopoly of England. To remove this weakness in the scheme for the defence of Britain is not only advisable but absolutely necessary, if greater security against possible attacks is desired, and no one will deny the right of Great Britain to make the disposition of her navy which will offer the highest degree of protection. All the other countries of Europe look well to their frontiers not because they are afraid that their neighbours are anxious to strike at any particular place, but because it is part of their respective schemes of defence. In like manner it may be conceded that Great Britain, although she has no frontiers marching with those of other countries, is justified in looking to the defence of her coasts. On the other hand we have little sympathy with those alarmists who surround themselves with fear at every new movement on the part of some Continental power. Such demonstrations suggest cowardice, and their effect, if allowed to become general, would not only make Britons the laughing stock of the Continent, but would also encourage the contingency they are so anxious to avert. An overweening confidence is not advisable, neither is panic. As we suggested at the outset, there are, apart from purely military considerations, good reasons why war is not likely to eventuate. The commercial interests of both countries are so great, and have so much in common that they would not readily suffer to take place the dislocation of trade and commerce which would be a co-relative of any outbreak of hostilities among the greater Powers of Europe. Ostensibly the issue lies in other hands, but we know full well that with such a community of commercial interests nothing untoward will be allowed to happen. The naval expert may have his opinion as to whether the proposed arrangement, owing to the wider area over which the fleets will be distributed, tends to weaken the effective striking force of the Navy, but while we do not propose to enter upon the discussion of a question which has been decided by the Lords of the Admiralty, it seems to us that the concentration of the navy is in no wise impeded by this arrangement and the protection of hitherto unpatrolled coasts will add materially to the sense of security in Britain which all schemes of defence are intended to impart.

The remains of three members of the Siamese Royal family are to be cremated within the coming week, and His Majesty the King will be present to light the pyros. The cremation of the body of the Prince who died in Germany last year, and that of his mother, are to take place on the 1st prox, and after the ashes have been removed on the following day, another pyro will be lighted to cremate the remains of another member of the Family.

CRIME IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, January 30th.)

The year 1909 has begun badly in Hongkong from the viewpoint of the Colony's criminal statistics. In addition to the numerous cases of simple robbery or burglary with which the advent of a Chinese New Year has always been associated, we have had to chronicle three armed robberies, in one of which two deaths were involved, and on Thursday the disagreeable duty devolved upon the Chief Justice of sentencing six men to death for a murder committed in the Colony last November. We must guard ourselves, however, against the assumption that there will be six executions at the gaol in February, for the Jury added to their verdict a recommendation to mercy, and the case seems one in which appeal is reasonably made to the clemency of the Governor. For it does not seem to have been established at the trial that these men, and their companions who have eluded arrest, went out with the deliberate and pre-conceived intention of committing a murder, and, so far as the evidence goes, only one man was shown to have had a knife or other weapon in his possession. That one man did have a knife, and made fatal use of it in the *mélée*, is not necessarily conclusive proof of a pre-conceived intention to murder, for he may have been accustomed, for all we know, to carry the knife as an implement of his trade as a rattan-worker. Still he cannot escape the consequences of the unlawful use he made of it. We have no desire to say anything to influence the decision of His Excellency the Governor in the matter, but in looking at the list of crimes which have engaged the attention of the public this month, we merely note the distinction which exists between this case and the cases of armed robbery which have come under notice. In two of these cases ten men in all are reported to have been armed with revolvers, and eight men engaged in another robbery are reported to have been armed with knives. Obviously in these cases murder was deliberately contemplated in the event of any attempt being made to frustrate the main objects of the rascals. The agencies for repressing crime in the Colony, we have no doubt, are duly affected by the increased feeling of insecurity these daring crimes must breed. There has been a noticeable tendency to lay the blame of this recrudescence of crime to the charge of those whose duty it is to administer the laws for the repression of crime in the Colony. Sentences passed at the Magistracy in recent times have frequently called for public criticism, on account of their apparent inadequacy; but the suggestion that these sentences encouraged such enormities as those now under notice is not easily susceptible of proof. We can recall times in Hongkong when increased severity has effectually repressed a particular class of crime, and we are sure that there is no need to call for severity in the cases under notice the necessity for it is so patent. When the men who engaged in the recent murderous enterprises are brought to trial and their antecedents traced we shall be in a better position to judge whether they have been influenced at all by considerations of the leniency of the Courts. Meanwhile, the police authorities are to be congratulated upon the fact that they have some of the miscreants in their custody, and investigations will doubtless be made into the source from which the supply of firearms was drawn. It is impossible to ensure in a Colony like this that no man shall possess a revolver unless he has a police

permit, however greatly the powers of search now possessed by the police may be extended, but the cases suggest that an illicit traffic in firearms has been going on in the Colony, and the police authorities, we are confident, will do their utmost to trace the source of supply, and so prevent a recurrence of these dastardly crimes which have surprised and alarmed the people living in the districts in which they were committed.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

Isn't it a disorganising time? Absent boys, scrappy meals, household arrangements upset, and to crown all, sleepless nights—no wonder China New Year is regarded with something like awe by the foreigner. Its great redeeming feature, however, is the sight of so many happy looking, well-dressed men and women, boys and girls. One appreciates a view of the many beautiful robes that brighten the street-scene—if I may be permitted to coin a word—and one has to admit that in that respect they have little to gain by adopting Western ideas. There is nothing more commanding or imposing than a fine-looking Chinaman attired in his long silk robe.

As usual, there were several griffins who went to bed on Thursday night under the fond delusion that they would enjoy the customary night's repose, but, alas, they were not long wrapped in the arms of Morpheus before they were rudely awakened to the awful reality of China New Year. I am sure many must have felt like the wedding guest in "The Ancient Mariner," whose feelings may be paraphrased thusly

The tired sleeper sadly woke:
He cannot chide but hear:
Still rattle on the merry din
To hail the coming year.

The University scheme is not being allowed to lag. I hear that officials to manage the fund have been selected but I am not at liberty to divulge their names. I am told, too, on good authority that the appeal published by H. E. the Governor is being translated into Chinese. That is only as it should be, and much good should result from the Chinese being interested in the undertaking.

Who would have dreamt that Hongkong could have been roused to enthusiasm over a Sanitary Board election, or for that matter over anything at all? We are not all tired, but our enthusiasms have mostly been killed, and it was quite refreshing to see such an amount of interest in public affairs as was evinced last Wednesday afternoon. I daresay the novelty of the experience attracted many, but as the newspapers are agreed whatever be the exact explanation, it betokened a healthy interest in public affairs.

I see that Captain Hutchison was the first man to vote. Probably he dropped his paper into the ballot box so early because he "savvied" the procedure better than most. When I was there I noticed that many were under the impression that they could not mark their papers properly except at the booths. Then some had to borrow pencils (though pencils were thoughtfully provided) and altogether there was an informality about the whole affair which was decidedly unusual. The officials in charge did exceedingly well under trying circumstances, but apparently they did not anticipate the rush of hundreds of voters, otherwise different arrangements would probably have been provided.

On dit some of the voters on Wednesday took great care in marking their papers that the crosses should not be upside down. Somebody had given advice that this precaution should be exercised, lest misunderstanding should ensue. I don't believe the yarn myself, but I give it you for what it is worth.

There was a charming candour about the speech of Mr. H. Percy Smith at the close of the polls when he said he was sorry he had not been elected but no doubt it was to the gain of the community. What a pity some of the ante-election speeches were not so candid. Then we

would elect the candidates who were most modest instead of electing those who promised us the most.

"In this connection I thought I might publish the following letter which I received before the election: DEAR MR. RODERICK—Not since I left "Merrie England" some years ago, have I been appealed to for my vote (for the simple reason that I hadn't any), and it is little wonder that my chest is now inflated when I realise that I have a voice in electing two representatives to serve on the Sanitary Board. Resolved to discharge the duties thus devolving upon me to the best of my poor ability, I sat down last night to study the addresses of the four candidates, and my cogitations took this form—Has a doctor a greater interest in the health of the people than in their ill health? If people didn't die there would be no need for undertakers. Therefore undertakers are interested in the dead rather than the living, excepting perhaps that each living man or woman is a prospective source of profit. In the same way if people did not become ill, there would be no need for doctors. Ergo, doctors are more interested in ill health than good health. My logic may be at fault, but that is the way I have figured it out. I am, yours, IMPERTINENT."

"Impertinent's" proposition is set out in proper syllogistic form, and of course if his premises be admitted his conclusion must be correct. But probably he has read that Europeans have a good deal to learn from China, and not the least important thing is the way doctors should be paid. Instead of waiting till you fall ill before you summon a physician, and then let him charge fees for his attendance, the method in China is to pay a salary to the doctor while you are well, and stop it immediately you become ill. This custom even obtains at the Chinese court, and on the demise of the Emperor and the Empress Dowager the court physicians were all to be officially fined for their lack of ability to save their august patients.

Bless my soul! Suffragettes in Hongkong Perish the thought! Yet I saw in cold print in the *Press* a letter from a lady demanding to know why she hadn't a vote. I never thought ladies here cared sufficiently about public affairs to feel they hadn't votes, though it was a surprise to me to learn that previously those who were ratepayers were entitled to vote. The old saying hath it "You never miss the water until the well runs dry": so perhaps in the same way the ladies in Hongkong never felt they wanted the vote until it was taken from them.

A friend, who sends on the following reflection, says he means no reflection on the writer or perpetrator of Random Reflections:—

Jokes of humorists all remind us
That the gags the most sublime
Are the ones that lie in p behind us
Covered with the moss of time.
Jokelets that perhaps another
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and hard up brother.
Seeing, may re-hash again.

Apropos is this "lay of an ancient anecdote" which I take from an American magazine: An ancient anecdote I be! Three thousand years ago Egyptian jokesmiths fashioned me to fit their Pharaoh, The old Chaldeans, sportive men, amusement would evince. To see me harnessed now and then to potentate or prince. The Middle Ages knew me well: I was considered good. I helped make famous William Tell, and also Robin Hood. The Grub Street wits I did delight: I earned for them some pence; And when the new world came to light I emigrated thence. An ancient anecdote I be! I have been coupled with The foremost men of history and half their kin and kith. I've toiled since Humour had its dawn to food, the scribbling craft. And now I s'pose they'll tack me on to William Howard Taft!

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

Her Excellency Lady Lugard remains in about the same condition since the last report, but with a tendency towards improvement.

Mr. Wolfe Barry, the son of the distinguished Consulting Engineer for the Canton-Kowloon Railway, made a survey of the British section on Monday. H.E. the Governor accompanied him.

For stealing a gold watch and chain valued at \$200, the property of Lieut. J. de Jesop, a Chinese servant on board H.M.S. *Virago* was on the 23rd inst. sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

The *Hankow Mail* says: "We hear from reliable sources that Mr. Robert Hemmings, Architect and Civil Engineer at Hongkong, intends to commence business here from the 1st Feb. 1909."

It is satisfactory to note that during the week ended 23rd January no cases of plague have occurred. Other communicable diseases recorded during the same period are one case of small pox, one of diphtheria and two of enteric fever.

Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, the Imperial Opium Commissioner appointed to represent Great Britain at the forthcoming International Opium Conference, was the guest of H. E. the Governor whole the steamer by which he travelled remained in Hongkong.

The Police have arrested two men in connection with the armed robbery and kidnapping case previously reported as having occurred on Kate Island near Shataukok. They were charged before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Jan. 27, and the hearing was adjourned until Friday.

Mr. Li Hong Mi, who has been acting as first interpreter at the Supreme Court, retires at the end of this month on pension after thirty-five years' service. Regret will be expressed that one so generally esteemed not only for his personal qualities, but for his acknowledged abilities, is leaving the public service.

Mr. J. H. Kemp, at the Magistracy on Jan. 23, after sentencing a man to twelve months' imprisonment for snatching a gold ear pick from the hair of a Chinese woman, told the complainant that the habit of carrying a valuable jewellery at the back of the head was only a temptation to thieves.

The s.s. *Ying King* which foundered in the July typhoon, and which was subsequently raised, brought to Hongkong and overhauled by Chi Wo and Co., the present owners, left on Jan. 24 for Kowloon. The vessel has been re-named the *Hoi Tung*, is to be run in the West River trade, and is commanded by the popular Captain Broadbridge.

A jewel robbery at 130, Barker Road, the Peak, is engaging the attention of the police. Mrs. Van Buren reports that a diamond and pearl necklace, valued at \$4,500 has been stolen, and on Jan. 23rd her amah and two house coolies were brought before the magistrate on a charge of being concerned in the robbery. They were remanded.

At the Magistracy on Jan. 26 before Mr. J. H. Kemp, Inspector Hutchins of the Building Authority's office prosecuted a contractor for improperly bonding two walls in a new building being erected at Shektonsi. Inspector Hutchins informed the Court that he had warned the foreman on the works at different times, but he did not take any notice of him. His Worship imposed a fine of \$200.

The Rev. A. J. Stevens, who for the past three years has been chaplain of St. Andrew's Church, Kowloon, and is now returning home has issued a statement of the accounts of the Church for the year 1908. For about half a year, the accounts showed a month's expenses (more or less) in arrears to the Treasurer, but Sir Paul Chater's donation of \$250 (which he kindly proposed to increase, had a larger amount been needed to avert a deficit) settled all liabilities so far as 1908 was concerned. Other liabilities, in connection with the Chaplain's departure for Home, on the termination of his three years' engagement, are being dealt with by special appeal of the lay-members of the Vestry. The expenditure for the year, including the item of \$2,000 (one half of the Chaplain's stipend) amounted to \$2,389.38.

One hundred and ninety-three deportees from the Dutch East Indies were brought to the Colony on the 28th ult. by the s.s. *Quarta*.

A shroff employed by the compradore of Messrs. A. R. Marty and Co., who was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Jan. 29 with embezzling \$1321 on January 20th, was committed for trial at the Criminal Sessions.

The Colonial Treasurer's statement of the Colony's assets and liabilities on November 30th, 1908, shows the total assets to be \$3,349,623.40. The liabilities amount to \$2,173,549.01, leaving a balance of \$1,176,029.39 on the right side of the ledger.

An interesting presentation took place at the Alice Memorial Hospital on Jan. 26th when the Rev. C. S. Turner, who 49 years ago laboured on behalf of the London Missionary Society in Hongkong and Canton, was made the recipient of a beautiful Chinese satin scroll on which Chinese characters set out the work he had done in connection with the anti-opium movement. The reverend gentleman was invalided home 36 years ago and is at present in the colony on a visit. In recognition of his services the Chinese churches and missions—nine in number—combined to do him honour, and the meeting, which took place in the chapel, was largely attended. Anti-opium speeches were delivered and hymns were sung.

A case of armed robbery occurred at Shaukiwan Bay on the 21st inst. Five men armed with revolvers and choppers, boarded a junk and bound the whole of the crew with ropes. They then ransacked the boat, and helped themselves to about \$580 in money, as well as a quantity of clothing, and made off in the direction of Quarry Bay. The precaution was taken, however, to cut the painter of the junk in order to prevent the crew from quickly landing and reporting the occurrence. The consequence was that the robbers got away in comparative ease.

Notwithstanding the passing of Chinese New Year, after which it was expected that things would settle down to their normal state, accounts of robberies are still being furnished the police. The latest is reported from Harmston's Circus at Causeway Bay. On Monday night, previous to entering the arena to go through her performance, Miss Florizell, the graceful contortionist, stripped herself of jewellery to the value of \$235. This she left in her dressing tent while going through her part. On returning she found that it had disappeared, and immediately notified the police. Investigations are being made.

Under pretence of wishing the inmates the usual compliments of the season a band of robbers seven or eight in number, entered a house in Kwai Wa Lane, presented themselves to the master of the house and offered their new year greetings. Then they produced knives, terrorised the people inside, and got together \$1,000 in money, jewellery to the value of \$29, and scrip for shares in the Canton-Hankow Railway Co. Then they disappeared. A remarkable incident is that the master pleaded with the men not to take away the share scrip and on his return from the Police Station where he reported the matter, he was surprised to find on the floor an envelope containing not only the ticket but two \$100 bills.

ASSAULT ON THE S.S. "KOREA."

At the Magistracy on Jan. 29, before Mr. J. H. Kemp, a Japanese deck hand was proceeded against for attacking the Chief Officer of the s.s. *Korea* with a knife.

Chief Officer Rudden informed the Court that when the defendant boarded the vessel on Thursday he was drunk. Witness led him half way along to his quarters and told him to go to sleep. When he started to walk alone he fell down. Some three-quarters of an hour later the defendant climbed a ladder and stood on the top deck. Witness asked him what he was doing there, and the deck hand started "giving him cheek." Witness told him to go below, and when he refused took him down. On the lower deck the Japanese pulled a knife out of his sleeve and rushed at the officer, cutting him across the hand. Witness seized him, hailed a passing police launch, and gave him in charge.

His Worship sentenced the defendant to two months' imprisonment with hard labour.

DEATH OF MR. A. P. MARTY.

On Friday, the 22nd January, the residents of Hongkong were very much grieved to hear of the death of Mr. A. Pierre Marty, which took place about 10 in the morning. As it was China New Year, offices were closed, no newspapers appeared, and it was extremely difficult to find a Printing Office to issue an "Express" The news therefore spread slowly, some only hearing of the sad event on the following day.

A. Pierre Marty was one of the oldest Hongkong residents: he first came out in August 1871, when a mere lad of 17, and he started at once in business with his brother A. R. Marty, the founder of the firm of the same name. After some time he went to Tonkin, about the time of the French occupation, and later went for a short time to the Philippines, and then to Formosa with the expedition of Admiral Courbet in 1885. Since then, with the exception of a few short furloughs,—the last one was in 1900,—he has always resided in Hongkong, and was therefore one of the best known and esteemed members of the community. For many years he was the Consul for Spain in Hongkong and Canton.

Mr. Marty stuck to his work to the last, and on the morning of the 15th he went to his office as usual, but shortly afterwards he was compelled to return home in a very prostrate condition. A consultation held by Drs. Stedman and Gröne, revealed the serious character of his illness, and hardly any hope was entertained from the beginning. After a week, during which every care was bestowed on him, by Dr. Gröne, Mrs. Marty, and the French Sisters specially authorised to nurse him by Bishop Pozzoni, the end came on Friday last; he remained conscious almost to the end.

A Funeral Service was celebrated at the R. C. Cathedral at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday, the coffin wrapped in the Spanish flag being brought into the building when Père Robert (the priest who had attended him during his illness, and given him the Sacraments) blessed the corpse. At the Cathedral, amongst those present were noticed the Consul, the French and Spanish residents, Bishop Clement of Amoy, Bishop Pozzoni and the Roman Catholic Clergy, with many other residents. From the Cathedral, the cortege, all bare headed, followed the hearse to the Cemetery, being joined on the way by many others, amongst whom were Captain Mitchell Taylor representing H. E. the Governor, Captain Heathcote representing H. E. General Broadwood, Commander Grenfell representing Commodore Lyon, Sir Francis Piggott, the Harbour Master, Captain Basil Taylor, R. N.

The Burial Service was celebrated by Bishop Pozzoni, assisted by all the Roman Catholic Clergy. Mr. Liebert, French Consul, said a few words thanking all those who had come to honour a "brave Français" and expressing his sympathy with the family.

The chief mourners were Mr. Berindoague, of the Banque de l'Indo-Chine, and Mr. Volpicelli the Consul General for Italy, one of the oldest friends of the deceased, their friendship dating back to 1885. Beautiful wreaths and floral anchors and crosses were sent: we can only give the names of some, many having been sent at the last moment to the cemetery, without cards:—

Sir Frederick and Lady Lugard, Captain Taylor A.D.C., Captain Simson A.D.C., Mr. Brackenbury, Mr. and Mrs. Volpicelli, Mr. and Mrs. Bribosia, Mr. and Mrs. Van Houten, Mr. and Mrs. Funatsu, Mr. Moreno, Com. and Mrs. Basil Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Wendt, Dr. and Mrs. Gröne, Mr. and Mrs. Berindoague, Mr. and Mrs. Le Corduner, Mr. and Mrs. Brotherton Harker, Captain and Mrs. Wait, Mr. and Mrs. Jebsen, Mr. and Mrs. Seth, Mrs. and Misses Loureiro, Mr. and Mrs. Dunn, Mr. and Mrs. Blanch, Mr. and Mrs. Stephens, Mr. Andap, Mr. Niedhardt, Mr. de Champmorin, Mr. Sequeira, Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald; the Spanish colony, each of the Chinese Staff of Marty Co., Mr. H. P. White, J. B. Guiterrez and sons, and many others.

Mrs. Marty feels deeply all the kind sympathy shown to her during her husband's illness and after her irreparable loss, but is too prostrated at present to write and express her thanks, and hopes to be forgiven if by any involuntary inadvertence, she should later omit to express her gratitude to anyone.

SUPREME COURT.

Thursday, 23rd January.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR F. PIGGOTT).

THE DES VOEUX ROAD MURDER.—DEATH SENTENCE.

Six Chinese were arraigned on a charge of murdering Shan Cheun, rattan dealer, on the 27th November. They pleaded not guilty. The Hon. Mr. Rees Davis, K.C., instructed by Mr. Dennys, conducted the prosecution, prisoners being defended by Mr. H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. O. D. Thomson.

The jury was empanelled as under: Messrs. P. Davidson, R. D. Galloway, P. F. Nicholson, J. Lysaught, A. C. Dierks, A. S. Currie, C. A. H. Westerberger.

The Attorney General told the jury that the affair took place in Des Vœux Road West about 6 o'clock on the evening of 27th November. The murdered man was a rattan dealer and all the prisoners had formerly been in his employ, but there had been a dispute between the master and the men concerning a woman labourer and they all left his employ. The evidence brought forward by the prosecution consisted chiefly of the evidence of two eye witnesses. The deceased's servant girl, a girl of 16 years, would tell the jury that she knew all the prisoners very well, having lived in the shop where they were engaged as foks. Her story was to the effect that on the night of the 27th November she went out on a mission for her mistress and on returning she saw, within a few yards of the shop, about ten men attacking her master. She said definitely that all the six prisoners were there. She saw the first prisoner strike him with a knife about a foot long, while the other five beat him with their fists or hold him by the queue. Becoming alarmed she ran into her master's shop and made a report to her mistress. The men ran away shortly afterwards and deceased walked to his shop bleeding and in a very weak state. The girl was then sent for the doctor. Her story was corroborated by a man named Shan Pui, a rattan dealer, who also spoke definitely to seeing all the prisoners. He stated that the first prisoner had a knife with which he chopped at the deceased who was calling out "save life." He also saw the second defendant catch deceased by the queue and saw some of the others kick him. To use his own expression "they were beating him at random." As soon as this witness came up the prisoners ran away, and he gave information to the police. At that time the street was well lighted and he could easily recognise all the men. The deceased was taken to the hospital but as his skull was smashed to the brain and he had other knife wounds, his condition was very grave. He rallied on admission. On the 1st December he became worse and an operation was performed but he died on the 5th December. All the prisoners were arrested—the first three on the night of the affair and the others the following day. When charged at the Police Court the prisoners all denied the charge and No. 6 sought to establish an alibi. Two knives were found at the residence of the first prisoner.

Dr. Koch stated that, in his opinion, the wound on the head was caused by a heavy knife. Other evidence was called.

Mr. Calthrop said he proposed to put the prisoners in the box.

The first prisoner, who elected to give evidence, said he left the deceased's service on November 20th. He left because he had not enough work to do.

His Lordship—Not because you had not enough pay?—No.

Witness said he entered the service of deceased's brother on the 26th November. On the following day he finished work at 6.30 p.m. and after washing his feet proceeded to the second floor and went to sleep. He did not go out. At midnight a policeman accompanied by a girl came up and he was arrested. He knew nothing of the affair. The second and third defendants were with him as well as other foks.

Cross-examined—He left because of the dispute over the woman labourer and not because he had not enough work to do.

Counsel having addressed the jury, his Lordship summed up very briefly and the jury retired to consider their verdict. After an absence of fifteen minutes they returned and asked several questions which his Lordship said indicated that they wished an elucidation of the evidence, upon which it was too late to enter.

The Attorney General said the evidence desired was not admissible.

Mr. Calthrop agreed.

His Lordship instructed the jury accordingly.

On their return the jury returned with a verdict of guilty of murder against each, but recommended them to the mercy of the Court.

His Lordship informed the jury that on a verdict of guilty he could do no other than pass sentence of death. The recommendation to mercy would be forwarded to H. E. the Governor and if they liked to draw up their reasons for the recommendation they could be transmitted to the proper quarter.

His Lordship, after the usual questions to each prisoner, donned the black cap and pronounced sentence of death upon each.

The prisoners received their sentence with remarkable composure, the sixth man challenging the witnesses, according to Chinese custom, to swear on the cock's head.

RESIGNATION OF MR. JUSTICE WISE.

The news that Mr. Justice Wise, the Puisne Judge, has decided to retire on pension, has been received with genuine regret in the colony not only by those associated with the bar but by the far larger number outside who had the pleasure of his acquaintance and friendship and who appreciated his personal qualities. It is scarcely a year since he went home on leave and his decision to remain in England is not altogether unexpected. He was far from well when he left here and fears were held that he would not survive the voyage.

Mr. Alfred Gascoyne Wise, barrister at law, had an extensive knowledge of Oriental character, which, added to his legal acumen of no mean order, enabled him to arrive at decisions which were invariably sound. Seldom indeed were any of his judgments upset. Possessed of a wonderfully keen insight into character, he seemed to be able to read a man at a glance, and as he grasped points quickly and clearly, he dealt with cases with remarkable despatch. His pronouncements were distinguished for their lucidity of expression, and that his conclusions were well formed is amply demonstrated by the fact that his judgments were rarely reversed. Moreover he brightened many a tedious hearing by his witticisms, and among the members of the Bar he was esteemed for his fair and impartial treatment. In every essential he worthily upheld the best traditions of the Bench.

In social circles his manly qualities made him a general favourite. His personality was decidedly robust, his expression direct, but withal he was a splendid type of the English gentleman. His presence will be missed by not a few and certainly his absence will occasion no little regret.

Born at Colombo, on the 15th August 1854, he is thus in his 55th year. He was educated at Repton and Trinity College Cambridge, was called to the bar (Lincoln's Inn) in 1878 and came to Hongkong as Police Magistrate in 1884. A few years later he was acting Registrar at the Supreme Court, and in 1889 was acting Puisne Judge as well. He filled several other appointments in the interval and in 1889 he became Puisne Judge. Since then he has acted as Chief Justice on several occasions.

RETIREMENT OF MR. DYER BALL.

Regret will be felt that Mr. Dyer Ball has decided to retire from service in the colony and to relinquish the post of chief interpreter at the Supreme Court. Mr. J. Dyer Ball enjoys more than a local reputation and is an accepted authority on China and the Chinese, his various publications having become very popular. He has done much to simplify the study of Chinese for foreigners, while his contributions to the large collection of literature on China are very valuable indeed.

Mr. Dyer Ball has been long identified with the public work, of the colony and has filled

important offices in the Civil Service. Not long ago he was acting Assistant Registrar General, a post which his intimate knowledge of the Chinese enabled him to fill adequately, and it is only about a year since he went home on leave to join his family. Last summer he was awarded the Imperial Service Order in recognition of his long and distinguished record.

In religious circles Mr. Dyer Ball was greatly beloved and his ministrations among the Chinese were highly appreciated.

His record is summarised in "Who's Who in the Far East" as follows: James Dyer Ball, M.R.A.S., M.N.Ch., B.R., R.A.S., Civil Service; b. Dec. 4, 1847. Resident 40 years in China, of which 30 have been spent in Government service in Hongkong, mostly in Supreme Court; has held office of Sheriff and Registrar General as well as other positions; is J.P. and Commissioner appointed to take oaths, etc.; member of Hongkong Civil Service Board of Examiners. Publications: Author of a number of works dealing with the languages, customs, manners and religions of the Chinese such as "Things Chinese," "The Pith of the Classics," "The Religious aspect in China," "antonese made easy" series, "Hakka made easy," "How to write Chinese" etc.

Mr. N. G. Nolan, first interpreter at the Magistracy, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Dyer Ball as chief interpreter at the Supreme Court.

A PLAUSIBLE BURGLAR.

A native who spoke English with a pronounced American accent was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Jan. 25 by Inspector Robertson with breaking into No. 50, Second Street, in the early hours of Sunday morning. A second charge of wilfully damaging Government property was also preferred against him. The accused gained admission to the house, by loosening one of the panels in a Chinese-made door with a knife, and departed with a bundle of clothing valued at \$30, and with \$19 in money without disturbing the inmates. When a watchman stopped him as he was proceeding along the street with the bundle, he told the watchman that a constable had borrowed the clothing contained therein from another man at the Central Station for the New Year, and that he (the accused) had been asked to take the bundle back. The watchman believed the story, and let the defendant go. Later another watchman met him in Queen's Road West with the bundle under his arm, and approached him with the object of asking a few questions. The accused ran away, but was captured, and just as he arrived at No. 7 Police Station the owner of the stolen property put in an appearance to report his loss. He recognised the clothing in the bundle taken from the defendant as his property, and the accused was charged, relieved of a false queue which he was wearing, and put in a cell. But even then the prisoner appeared to have hopes of escape, and must have made an early start after the door had been locked behind him to burrow through the wall. He removed the wire netting which protected the lamp in the cell, and with this proceeded to scrape away the plaster between the stone work. His efforts were unsuccessful, however, and yesterday Mr. Wood sent him to jail for six months with hard labour.

LARCENY FROM A BOARDING HOUSE.

Inspector Smith charged an unemployed "boy" before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Jan. 23rd with stealing clothing from Mrs. Russell's boarding establishment "Glendernae" in MacDonnell Road. For some time clothing had been disappearing from this house, and at last the landlady decided to set a watch. The defendant was caught in the back yard pulling clothing through the kitchen window with a bamboo pole to the end of which a hook was attached. He attempted to escape, but was arrested by an Indian constable. Some weeks ago he was before the Court on a similar charge, and was then dismissed on a previous employer vouching for his good character. Yesterday his Worship sentenced the accused to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

HONGKONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Benevolent Society was held on Jan. 27 at noon in the City Hall. Dr. Wilder, American Consul-General, presided, and there were also present: Mrs. May, Mrs. Peter, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Edkins, Mrs. Bunbury, Mrs. Gompertz, Mrs. Voretzsch, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Hickling, Mrs. Hastings, Mrs. Slade, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. Lander, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Turner, Miss Innes, Mrs. Gresson, Hon. Mr. Pollock, Revs. C. J. Hickling, F. T. Johnson, J. H. France.

The CHAIRMAN read the 19th annual report as under:

The ladies of the Committee of the Hongkong Benevolent Society desire again to thank members and friends who through another year have given them the means of carrying out the objects of the Society, and have much pleasure in submitting the annual report and statement of accounts for the year 1908. The number of applicants this year has been greater than last; many have applied during the course of the year whose cases are not detailed in this report; some have been refused as unworthy of assistance, others were not within the scope of the Society and others have obtained work through letters of introduction, or by influence of the members of the Committee. Twenty-one have received assistance with money, clothes, board and lodging until work could be found, or passages paid to various places where they had promise of work. We have had very few residents applying for help; most of our cases this year have been men who came to Hongkong with the belief that there was plenty of work to be got, and have become destitute in honestly trying to find it; some of course have drifted here as rolling stones and are not entirely satisfactory cases to help, but it is difficult to definitely class them as undeserving. Unfortunately, we cannot follow our cases to their conclusions, but we have had several instances this year of apparently undesirable characters, who but, for the Society, would have been practically starving, and by the help given have turned over a new leaf, and are regaining their positions and in some cases they have refunded what the Society has spent on them, and have also sent money to pay debts left behind in the Colony. Such cases amply compensate for mistakes and disappointments in others. Twenty-six other cases have received help through the Rev. J. H. France, the Seamen's Chaplain, who gives invaluable assistance to the Society by investigating cases and helping the deserving. As Mr. France is leaving the Colony in May the Committee take this opportunity of thanking him most sincerely for all the valuable help which he has given during the past ten years. He will be greatly missed and our very best wishes go with him to his new field of labour. (Applause.) The Society has paid for the support and education of four children during the past year. One girl has finished her education and writes expressing gratitude for all the Society has done for her. One old man, too old to work, who received a monthly allowance, died last month. The thanks of the Committee are due to the managers of the various steamship companies who have assisted us by granting reduced passages. The following ladies retire as they are leaving the Colony for a time: Mrs. Peter, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Slade and Mrs. Pollock. In conclusion the Committee sincerely thank all those who have helped them during the past year, and hope that the many new residents in the Colony will become subscribers, and so join us in our attempts to help those who are in need, and are less fortunate than ourselves.

The report of Guarantee Scheme 1908 was also read as follows: At the last annual meeting of the Ladies' Benevolent Society an appeal was made in connection with this scheme for guarantors for the ensuing year, but only two gentlemen came forward. Of these two only one was called upon. A man of respectable character, but in destitute circumstances, was admitted to the Sailors' Home where he stayed 17 days at the expense of his guarantor. He was thus enabled to look round and find work instead of being reduced to begging, or the House of Detention, and so was undoubtedly

saved from deterioration. The second guarantor, though not called upon in the ordinary way, very kindly permitted the full amount of his guarantee (\$60) to be used in relieving a case of distress which could not rightly be brought under the conditions of the scheme. In view of the very limited response of last year it would seem on the whole better to discontinue the scheme and to invite any who might be disposed to become guarantors to contribute instead to the general funds of the Ladies' Benevolent Society.

Dr. WILDER said:—This Society whose annual meeting is held this day, has for twenty years in this Colony been a help to indigent Europeans. It has not been able to say to all such "Your troubles are over; we will carry you"—for no society is rich enough to defray all bills of all people in want, and a society would do harm that attempted it; but, thanks to the Hongkong Benevolent Society and its generous supporters, it is now eligible for any European in distress to present himself or herself to Mr. France or the Honorary Secretary, a lady, and have the merits of the case threshed out. If it be a meritorious case, relief can be afforded to an extent; indeed it is happy reading to see how many have been set on their feet. And if there be a factor of unworthiness, the case is not wholly refused; for if you and I were turned down by parents, friends and the Almighty, except when we were right, we would usually be found wrong side up. There is a cold, practical, just attitude in dealing with men that may have its place in certain relations as, for instance, in the conduct of business; but this attitude will not get far in the upbuilding of men and women who are down. Justice is a majestic thing, but its field is the tribunal and the market place, rather than in the operation of a society for the unfortunate, the suffering and the weak. Humanity touches the heroic note on rare occasions as a reminder of its high origin, but day in and day out the philanthropist must be very charitable and patient, he must forget much and hope against experience. One need not forgive a clerk seventy times seven, in the sense of entrusting the combination of the safe to him; but the persevering kindness of the precept is by no means nonsense. There is a mean between futile sentimentalism and granite justice. It was struck of late by a father in dealing with his son. The young man had been covering the Orient in his own way, calling on the father for money from time to time. The old man had responded bravely again and again. Having reached Hongkong the wanderer once more smote the rock of parental resources; in fact he interested—"touched" I believe is the expression—"touched" the consulate for the price of a cablegram. The answer was disappointing; it was the one word "work." Charity had in this case done its beautiful part and justice assumed her tidy function. I am glad to say, to the welfare of the young man. To meet and listen to the long life histories of the applicants is tedious business, and the later investigations require time and patience. These tasks your managers have done faithfully. In one way the number of those helped appears limited compared to reports of home societies; yet it is to be remembered that for a European to be stranded in this remote part of the world is grave business and relief proportionately expensive, especially when transportation charges are incurred. Our annual budget is not large. Every dollar is laid out judiciously and being attended by personal interest is made profitable to the applicant; for unless the man is led to work and to help himself, money to feed him to-day when he will be hungry again to-morrow is to pour water into a sieve. It is a convenience to have this machinery of charity in Hongkong. It ought not to be necessary to urge citizens to remit the \$12 annual dues, a less or a greater amount as a primary item of the year's individual outlay. Having done this one feels free to refer applicants to the society. Mrs. Pollock, the Hon. Secretary, goes home for a time, and Mr. France retires—the two wheel horses of the work in late years, but new material will develop. We thank them not more for their diligence and sweet reasonableness with the unfortunate and erring than for the standards of efficiency they have set their successors. In conclusion I beg to recommend the adoption of the report.

The Rev. C. J. HICKLING, in seconding, congratulated the Society on the excellent report. He believed it was within the memory of those present that at the time the guarantee scheme was formed Hongkong was the dumping ground of many undesirables from the surrounding countries and the strain upon the Society's resources was very great, and the accommodation in the cells at the House of Detention for the purpose was taxed to its utmost. However the dumping has been stopped and the main cause for the existence of the scheme has been removed. It was well therefore that it had commended itself to the wisdom of the committee to no longer continue that scheme. Proceeding, he remarked that Hongkong was in the highway of the world's trade and many people came here; some of them unfortunately misled by reports that Hongkong was an El Dorado and that the streets were paved with gold, waiting to be picked up. It was very terrible the awakening and the disillusionment which followed. It was good therefore that the Society was able to cope with those cases as well as with others. The scope of the Society was very great. It ranged from assisting children to obtain elementary education to assisting the aged. It was also remarkable that it should be so international in its scope. He had an opportunity of looking into the cases that had been dealt with, and in the 21 whose circumstances were such as not to need detailing there were comprised nine different nationalities. That, he thought, ought to appeal to the cosmopolitan character of Hongkong, and induce them to help the Society which endeavoured to help the helpless, of whatever nationality they might be. It had been noted with great satisfaction that assistance had been given by Mr. France, and as most of the cases were from sailor life it was very good that they had the assistance of the seaman's chaplain. In conclusion he said he wished to emphasise the increasing advantage to the community of such a society, a society which carefully investigated cases of need. It was a discriminating form of help which did not pauperise but helped the unfortunate to help themselves.

The report was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the following office bearers be elected for next year:—President, Mrs. May; Vice president, Mrs. Hastings; hon. secretary, Mrs. Edkins; hon. treasurer, Mrs. Turner; committee—Mrs. Hickling, Mrs. Bunbury, Mrs. Gresson, Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. Lander, Miss Innes, Mrs. Becker, and Mrs. Badeley.

Rev. F. T. JOHNSON seconded. Speaking from experience he said the Society had done a good work in this place, but he felt its work was not sufficiently appreciated by the people on whose behalf they were working. The Society was really working on behalf of the Europeans in this place whose duty it ought to be to look after their poorer brethren.

A vote of thanks was awarded the retiring office bearers and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman, moved by Mrs. PETER, and seconded by Mrs. POLLOCK.

TIRED OF LIFE.

Two Chinese who attempted to commit suicide on Wednesday appeared before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Jan. 28. In the first instance an old woman, who was arrested at Yaumati for gathering pine cones and placed in a cell at the Police Station, attempted to strangle herself with a lace with which her hair was bound. Making one end of this lace fast to her neck, she tied the other end to a bar of the cell door and endeavoured to hang herself. The attempt would no doubt have been successful but for the timely arrival of Sergeant Macdonald, who released her. On appearing before the Court she was bound over to be of good behaviour in the sum of \$10.

In the other case a student attempted to end his days by jumping off the Praya central into the harbour, but was rescued by some boating people in the vicinity. The attempt was made while the guns were booming their congratulations to the German Emperor, and the student explained that he took this as his death knell, because he feared that his mother and the rest of his family had been beheaded in Canton. The charge was remanded pending a medical examination of the rash young man.

JAPAN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Tokyo, January 2nd.
TOKYO RAILWAY COMPANY AND DOMESTIC POLITICS.

The year closes with the Diet in session and only the formal part of its work done. It will resume business towards the end of this month, and in the meantime the Government may consider it advisable to settle a question that is capable of disturbing to the depths the quiet course of domestic politics and of even placing the Cabinet itself in jeopardy. I refer to the application of the Tokyo Railway Co., for permission to raise its fares. To outsiders this may seem a matter of purely local interest, having no relation at all to politics, much less to the stability of the Government in power, but in fact, it is a subject of the deepest interest to citizens of Tokyo, who seem unanimously opposed to the company, and it is by this lever that certain political parties, by fermenting the agitation against the company, hope to make their influence felt in the Diet. It is not too much to say that the Government may stand or fall according to its attitude towards the tramway fare question and its method of dealing with the application for an increase.

THE COMPANY VERSUS THE CITY.

In recent letters to the *Hongkong Daily Press*, I have dealt with the position of the company, but a brief outline may be re-stated here in order that the present situation may be fully understood. The company runs its trams by virtue of a charter obtained from the city some few years ago. This agreement, however it was regarded at the time it was signed, seems now, in the light of subsequent events, to have been expressly drawn up for the advantage of the city and disadvantage of the company. It is thoroughly unbusinesslike from an equitable point of view. The company is now carrying out extensions it is bound to construct within a certain time into distant suburbs, and within fifty years the whole property has to be turned over to the city gratis. These extensions, until the population increases sufficiently, will always be unprofitable, but nevertheless, they are built at a cost per mile little less than those in the centre of the city. This heavy capital outlay can only have one effect unless the fare is raised. But the company cannot increase its fare without the permission first of the city authorities, secondly of the *fu* authorities, and thirdly of the Home office itself.

When the three old companies were amalgamated with a subscribed capital of 60,000,000 yen the outlook was bright, for individually the companies had been paying and suffered under no serious restrictions. From whatever cause, mismanagement or other, the rate of dividend has gradually declined, but this, instead of evoking sympathy from the citizens seems to have had an opposite effect. The cry has always been that the company is corrupt and mismanaged, and this, is a country where corruption and mismanagement are not uncommon, will at once rouse the popular indignation, for it is the people who are always the victims of corruption. The company did not improve its position when, last year, it attempted to dispose of its property to the city at a price about 50 per cent above par. The municipalisation question was just as obnoxious to the citizens as the fare proposal now is, and when the Home Office refused its consent after months of delay great satisfaction was felt, while the company remained as unpopular as ever and has now raised a second storm in an effort to obtain what some believe to be its rights.

IRRESOLUTE ATTITUDE OF THE AUTHORITIES.

But to anybody acquainted with the facts there can be no doubt where the blame lies. The company may be corrupt, but the authorities themselves are even more blameworthy. The delay in coming to a decision in the municipalisation proposal was inexcusable. Months were spent in negotiations when weeks should have been sufficient for a thorough investigation of the facts and a judicial decision. The regular course of business was checked, the share market was demoralised, by an affair which in any other country in the world would have been treated promptly as a

matter of business and decided accordingly. What will be the conduct of the authorities in the present question? The company has put forward a simple application for an increase of fare, submitting figures which show that if the company is to provide suitable reserves the present fare will not pay a proper dividend. The application has already been partially granted by the municipal assembly, and the latter is, of course, accused of having been bought [accusations of corruption against both the company and the city authorities are so general that little notice is taken of allegations which in any other country would have to be substantiated]. The application is next, I believe, to come before the Governor of Tokyo-fu, and if he grants it, it will go before the Home Office. Now, presumably, this application was considered by the municipal assembly, and they favoured an increase by one sen (one farthing) because they thought this was just and right. But it is claimed that the assembly did not give it sufficient consideration and passed it hurriedly, having been "influenced." In this case the duty of the higher authorities is clear. The municipal assembly ought to be out of office if not in jail. Either the application was passed on its merit, or the municipal assembly was influenced in some way that is a disgrace to them as public men. These facts ought to be perfectly clear to the police, who in Japan, it must be remembered, are in the service of the Government and not of the municipality. The police, representing the executive authority of Tokyo, do nothing; in fact they have even been charged with being in collusion with the company too!

A SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING, POLICE AND SOSHI.

Sufficient has been said to show that the Government authorities of Tokyo ought to be on trial before the bar of public opinion, if half of what one hears is true, this is certainly the case, but the national attitude is—*Shikatanai*, "it can't be helped." The day will come, however, when this word will not be used in such a connection, but as yet public opinion is only in its infancy and even when aroused, like a child, is prone to resort to violence. But with regard to the remarkable charge of the police being in collusion with the company. This was made after the violent meeting of shareholders held at the 28th ult. when the behaviour of the police, even to an onlooker innocent of the under currents of Japanese life, "left much to be desired." The meeting was attended by hundreds of dissatisfied men, dissatisfied at the small dividend and thoroughly distrusting the integrity of the directors, who sat in a row on the platform of the hall—the institution of the Y. M. C. A. curiously enough—facing a threatening crowd. No sooner had the chairman opened his mouth than rasping voices from various parts of the hall called upon the directors to resign, charged them with corruption, and the storm began. An accountant and director made statements which were challenged by a man a member of the Diet, who appeared prepared to argue reasonably on facts and figures, and looked fully determined to do so. But he was interrupted; others tried to speak and then pandemonium reigned. Fighting began at the rear of the hall, one party being bonneted and attacked from all sides. Gradually the centre of disturbance moved towards the platform, when one or two individuals who had spoken out against the company were brutally treated, it appears by "soshi," ruffians who can be hired to do anything. Gradually the disputes lost all semblance to such as might easily take place at a political or company meeting. Individuals were attacked and severely handled, brutally handled, kicked in the stomach and struck with fiendish vindictiveness as they were lying helpless on the floor. The writer did not know at that time that these men, the assailants, were soshi, hired to do their contemptible work, who were admitted to the meeting on the strength of holding shares presented by the company. Such is the allegation, which, however, is denied by the company. He was ignorant of the under currents that moved the storm, but reflected that in many lively experiences of political and other meetings where feeling ran high he had never, seen anything to approach this in Tokyo for its display of malicious brutality.

After several individuals had been "dealt with" and put out, the police sailed in. All this time they had been waiting outside in force, but do not appear to have attempted to interfere when it was most necessary they should do so. When the fighting was over they stood together in a group, talking to various civilians and arguing with some. Curious procedure, this! The police did not attempt to arrest anybody, although there were those present in the hall, if justice were meted out to them, who richly deserved terms in prison for assault of the character described briefly above. The business of the meeting ended in only one way, for the great majority of the holders of shares were in favour of the directors, report and the discontented left to renew their agitation at a later date. Some curious matters have been made public since this meeting the most remarkable being that the Police were suborned, that they were in favour of the company and therefore did not do their duty at the meeting, and also that the *soshi* were employed by the directors. Were such a charge made against the police of London, for example it would be a most serious affair, to be followed promptly by the most serious investigation and the most severe punishment of the guilty. In Tokyo the charge has led the chief of the Metropolitan police to question the police inspector responsible and impress upon this officer the necessity of being impartial! The question of the guilt, or innocence of the inspector and his subordinates does not appear to have been considered: the charge stands, that the police of Tokyo are capable of being suborned and are therefore, morally, no better than the *soshi garotsuki*, types of men who can be hired to commit anything from murder downwards.

Currents and undercurrents about the question of the Tokyo Railway company and its fare proposals are strong and deep; the subject is uppermost in the minds of the masses: what might appear to an impartial observer a question of business to be settled between the company and the authorities is one that is discussed most violently by a press that does not hesitate to incite the masses by means of cartoon and the written word to the use of physical force. This is permitted by the Tokyo police. In short, the company is charged with being corrupt to the core, and does not take action; to establish its integrity, the mob is incited to violence by the press, but the police take no action against the newspapers; and, most serious of all, the police themselves are accused, while the highest authorities of the Government look on, apparently unconcerned.

Tokyo, Jan. 15.

PURGING THE BUSINESS LIFE.

"While the Japanese people is agreed in the desire of making Bushido, the long-tried code of honour of military life, the standard of conduct for all conditions of people, the business world, which should make credit its life, honesty its best policy, and steadiness its basic virtue, is run on principles contrary to the national resolution. The business atmosphere should be purged of its bacilli and filled with the spirit of faithfulness and sense of responsibility which characterised the soldiers of old."—Thus the *Kokumin*, expressing in a brief, pungent sentence what every Tokyo journal has been saying in the past few days in their desire to voice the indignation that is felt at the revelations of mismanagement and corruption among the directors of the Dai Nippon Sugar Manufacturing Co.

BIG DIVIDEND ON BAD BUSINESS.

The Dai Nippon Seito Kaisha is the leading concern of its kind, and up to recently believed to be one of the best investments in the country. Some months ago two of the directors, both large shareholders, placed their holdings on the market, realising large profits. This treacherous act towards their own company gradually came to be known, with the result that a state of affairs is now revealed, which the whole press of the country is hoping will result in a thorough investigation by the authorities, the punishment of the guilty, and most important of all, the awakening of the common shareholder to his privileges and duties under the law. Quite recently this sugar company paid the usual dividend of 15 per cent., whereas it was

not in a position to pay one per cent., being heavily in debt, its shares hypothecated, and having large stocks of unsold material on hand. It stands doubly revealed before the public, if the term may be used, for in the coming of the Diet the House was to consider a proposal for the monopoly of the sugar industry, by which this corrupt company would have derived a large profit. This proposal was engineered by the directors of the company.

POSITION OF THE COMPANY.

The present state of affairs was brought about shortly after the amalgamation of three companies, the Dai Nippon in Tokyo, a company in Osaka and the Dairi Company in Moji, their subscribed capital being 14 millions, and paid up capital to-day 8,400,000 yen. For months, it appears, certain directors had had things their own way, deceiving the president of the company who, as is frequently the case, was a man of scholastic attainments, but of no business experience, and crowning their course of deception by making a call on new shares and actually paying part of this for the 15 per cent dividend. The true state of affairs was brought to light by an Osaka auditor, who joined the company as the result of amalgamation. Finally the Mitsu Bishi, Mitsui and other interested concerns took the investigation up, the net result of which is—that the company has lost between four and five million yen; that it has debentures to the amount of seven millions; that its floating capital is three millions, the greater part of which is borrowed; and that considerable sums are owing for material. The papers further allege that the company owes some millions in the form of customs dues and that the Treasury holds the company's stock as security, stock that is worth only half of what it was when the Treasury accepted it. If the Government demanded payment bankruptcy would follow.

EVILS OF THE PUBLIC COMPANY SYSTEM.

The great businesses of this country are run upon two systems. First come the extensive family concerns, such as the Mitsui, Sumitomo, Mitsu Bishi, &c., which, established in feudal times, continue to flourish increasingly, controlled by the various members of the family who are subject to family rules and discipline as of old. Second is the public company. This is a new growth and, like constitutional government, not by any means digested or appreciated by the Japanese people. It may be said with truth that the corruption which exists in public companies and in political circles is entirely due to the indifference of shareholders and electors. The education and environment of a thousand years cannot be swept away by the promulgation of a constitution. Directors and politicians receive their mandate from shareholders and people and are then left to themselves, and being themselves, with few exceptions, unfitted for the work of company directors or legislators and not over-scrupulous, the result is corruption and mismanagement. It is quite commonly the case in Tokyo that companies are headed by Dr. This and Dr. That, gentlemen of scholastic or scientific training and doubtless men of integrity, but who are quite unfitted to deal with the affairs of the company, much less to rub shoulders with the denizen of Kabuto-cho, the local Capel Court. There is little doubt that these doctors and professors are secured with much the same end in view as the scheming company promoter in London secures a title to sit at the head of his board—a figure-head in reality and a blockhead in business. They are useful men but only to dishonest directors. There are other important figures in the Japanese company, the advisers and auditors. Here, as in other cases, the law is abused. These offices are now filled in many companies by the same men, who receive large fees, and are seemingly only nominal advisers and auditors. If they were to do their duty conscientiously, they could not hold so many offices at the same time, but they are merely professional and another useful tool to the scheming director. Finally, there are the shareholders, who should be most important of all. One of the heritages of the Japanese is absolute submission to authority or, breaking loose, a violent attitude of opposition. The middle course, the birthright of a constitutional people, is not practiced, simply because the people have not yet learned to appreciate it. The affair of the Tokyo Railway becomes an

interesting study when viewed from this aspect and it is the same with the sugar company. Up to a certain point the shareholders are passive and indifferent, beyond that point the spirit arises that prompts the assassination of Tokyo Railway directors and the smashing of cars. The mean course of consistent watchfulness and attention to business, which is the duty of a shareholder, does not occur to the Japanese mind, until it is perhaps too late.

THE GOVERNMENT'S DUTY.

Enough has been published in the papers about the directors of the sugar manufacturing company to justify criminal proceedings in any western country, and as Japan is under the same law, to justify criminal proceedings here. The integrity and standing of two great companies is now questioned, the Tokyo Railway Company, subscribed capital 63,000,000 yen, the largest concern in the country, and the Dai Nippon Sugar Manufacturing Company, subscribed capital 14,000,000 yen, the largest industrial concern in the country. Against the former the charge is made of doctoring accounts, of presenting a very optimistic report of business when the petition for municipalisation was sent to the authorities and a very pessimistic one when the petition for increase of fare was preferred; against the latter of malversation of funds enough to send all the directors to prison. In neither case has any action whatever been taken by the public prosecutor. Were these two companies insignificant, nothing more need be said, but they stand for Japanese business before the world. It is the urgent duty of the authorities in Tokyo to show that they at least have no doubt as to their course of action. The papers are waking up to their duty, as the quotation at the head of this letter shows, and it is now for the authorities of law and order to act.

CRAIGENGOWER CRICKET CLUB'S NEW PAVILION.

OPENED BY MRS. R. E. BELILIOS.

There was a large attendance at the Craigengower Cricket Club on the 23rd January when the new pavilion was opened by Mrs. R. E. Belilios. The new building, which has a length of 60 feet, and which contains a social hall 26 feet by 15 feet 10 inches; a dressing room 15 feet 10 inches by 15 feet 10 inches; and a committee room 15 feet 10 inches by 15 feet 10 inches was tastefully decorated with flags, and a League match between the Club and Kowloon was proceeding on the ground. When the Craigengower eleven, who went in first, had been dismissed, an adjournment was made to the verandah of the pavilion where the crowd assembled to witness the opening ceremony.

Mr. W. D. BRAIDWOOD, the President of the Club, said:—Mrs. Belilios, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the committee of the Craigengower Cricket Club, I beg to extend to you a most hearty welcome on the occasion of the opening of our new club house, but before calling upon Mrs. Belilios to perform the opening ceremony, it may not be amiss for me to give you a short resume of the Club's inception and career. The Club was formed fifteen years ago by a number of the upper form boys of the Victoria English School. It took the name Craigengower from the school house, and for the first seven years of its existence the Club membership was confined to past and present pupils of the school. In 1901, however, this restriction was removed, members other than pupils, were admitted and at the same time the Club, having through the kindness of the Government been granted the use of the present playing pitch, migrated here. Originally the Club consisted of twenty-four members, but shortly after the removal to Happy Valley the number increased to sixty and to accommodate these a substantial matched pavilion, the funds for which were raised by voluntary subscriptions among the members of the Club, was erected. That pavilion was later on extended and from time to time repaired, but ultimately the typhoon of July last year completely demolished it, and literally scattered it to the four corners of the Valley. The desire for a more substantial building had long existed and the total destruction of the matched brought matters to a climax. The committee and members, though confronted with serious

financial difficulties, faced the situation with energy and resolution, with the result you now see before you. Many of the original members are with us to-day and among them we are all pleased to welcome Mr. R. E. Belilios who was our first honorary treasurer, in which capacity he acted for five years. I have no doubt that the club owes its long life in part to the sound financial basis on which he then placed it. Mr. Belilios's connection with the Club has been uninterrupted since its inception and his interest in it has never waned. On previous occasions as well as at the present time the Club has experienced his generous support, and the executive and members desire to express their appreciation by electing Mr. Belilios a life member and honorary president of the club (Applause). Craigengower is the oldest junior club in the Colony, and its players have always striven to excel in, and to uphold, the best traditions of the game of cricket. Their success in the former direction is amply evidenced by their position in the league contests. During the five years the league has been in existence Craigengower's record has been—twice holders of the Shield, twice runners up and once third place (Applause). The members are naturally proud of such results but what they value more highly is the reputation their Club has for playing the game in a thoroughly unselfish and sportsmanlike manner, and this reputation it will be their object in the future, as it has been in the past, to maintain unsullied, (Loud applause).

Mr. BRAIDWOOD then handed Mrs. Belilios the key to the main door of the club house, and asked her to open the Club.

Mrs. BELILIOS unlocked the door and declared the Club opened.

As the other doors were opened those present entered the new building and inspected it.

Mr. A. E. ASGER, the secretary of the Club, next addressed Mrs. Belilios as follows:—In the name of the executive and members of the Club I beg to thank you for kindly consenting to be present to-day, and to officiate at the opening of our new Club house. To-day is a red letter day in the history of the Club, and it will be a lasting pleasure to us that your name will be for ever associated with our entrance into our new premises.

Mrs. BELILIOS replied—I thank you very much for the honour you have done me this afternoon, and I ask you to accept my sincerest wishes for the future prosperity of the Club (Hear, hear and applause).

On the call of the PRESIDENT three cheers were then raised to the lady.

A popping of corks followed, and when glasses were charged,

Mr. BELILIOS said the honour had been left to him of proposing the health and prosperity of the Craigengower Cricket Club. He felt to a certain extent that it was apt that this task should be left to him seeing that years ago, as a little kiddy, he had the control of the funds of the club. Whether he had brought about any of the success which the Club had now acquired he did not know, but he felt that better hands had succeeded him and the present flourishing condition of the Club was due to the exemplary manner in which they had carried out their duties (applause). When the Club first started Mr. Braidwood was its head man, and he is its head man to-day, and so long as he took such a keen interest in it, and so long as the speaker's old school friends took such an interest in it, so long would its prosperity last. He asked all to drink to the success of the Craigengower Cricket Club.

The toast was fittingly honoured and the proceedings ended with cheers for the President.

The many ladies present were then entertained by members to afternoon tea, while the gentlemen visitors congratulated their hosts on their new building over the glass that cheers.

Although the old Straits Settlements Dollar ceased to be legal tender on the 1st January, 1909, there still appears to be a large number of them in the possession of persons who have not been able to exchange them for the new Straits Settlements dollar within the time fixed by the Government, and His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to extend the period for effecting such exchange at the Treasuries to the 28th February next.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

The annual meeting of the ratepayers of the international settlement of Kulangsu, Amoy, was held at the Board Room, Kulangsu, on the 19th January 1909. There were present:—Messrs J. H. Arnold, G. W. Barton, H. Bathurst, R. Braun, A. Coghill, W. Davies, W. M. d'Oliveira, F. H. Edwards, J. D. Edwards, L. C. Escort, A. J. M. Fauque, M. Faller, J. S. Fenwick, W. W. Frederick, L. Giles, H. Gottwaldt, W. H. Howard, E. Jessen, W. F. Kahler, Kashiwabara, H. C. Kohler, W. Komaroff, W. Kruse, C. Lee, J. J. C. Lorrentzen, F. H. Lucasen Rev. J. Macgowan, Dr. H. McDougall, J. Mencarini, Dr. C. Merz (Chairman), Dr. J. Moorhead, Y. Mori, J. P. Morley, M. B. Nilsen, J. Noble, S. Okazaki, S. Okuyama, Dr. A. J. Otte, P. M. Sagar, A. J. Sundius, J. H. Thatcher, L. I. Thomas, Miss Usher, Rev. G. M. Wales, W. H. Wallace, C. J. Weed, C. Whitfield, W. Wilson, A. H. Wilzer, the Secretary (Mr. Berkeley Mitchell) and others.

Dr. Merz, Consul for Germany, and Senior Consul, was in the chair.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW.

Mr. W. H. WALLACE, Chairman of the 1908 Council, addressed the meeting as follows:—Our annual report for 1908, which has now been in your hands for some days, is of such a voluminous character that but few remarks from the Chairman of your Council are called for. Still, there are points I desire to touch on before you are asked to pass the accounts and estimates. At the end of 1908 we show roughly a balance in hand of \$637 after allowing for a payment of \$2,800 on new buildings account, whereas we estimated to have a surplus of some \$3,000. The difference is principally due to two items, viz. expenditure on new buildings, and an item of \$900 for Land Commissioners' fees. As regards the allowance we have made in the Budget for the current year for an expenditure of \$2,000 on a new pavilion, this is only a proposal, and the Council by no means bind themselves to such a scheme, as they consider it is a matter that the ratepayers at this meeting should decide, and if you consider such an expenditure excessive, or undesirable, or that the scheme should be modified, we are quite prepared to fall in with your views. It would be, however, as well to bear in mind that on the inception of the Council the old pavilion was taken over as Municipal property, so, of course, it is the duty of our Council to keep it in repair, and in making the suggestion of a corrugated iron building in place of one built on similar lines to the old one, we would point out that we think an iron building would be cheaper in the long run, as it would be impervious to white ants, whereas a building such as the old one is constantly needing repairs from this cause. The old building brought you in a rental of \$75 per annum, but whatever sum you decide to expend we would suggest that the new rental should be on a basis of 10 per cent per annum on the outlay, thus, if we expend \$2,000 as proposed, we shall receive say \$200 as rental. I will but lightly touch on the question of an Assistant to your Secretary and Superintendent of Police, for it must be obvious to anyone conversant with the growth of work in different Municipal Departments during the past few years, that it has become impossible for any one man to conscientiously and successfully cope with the same. Another matter I think your attention should be called to, and that is the engagement of a trained nurse, to work under the orders of the Health Officer and to be at the disposal of the Foreign residents of the Island. Whether such a nurse should be engaged by the Council and paid for out of public funds, or whether obtained by private endeavour, is a matter for the ratepayers, but the Council think the question should receive your earnest attention. The matter of the construction of buildings and the power of the Council to prosecute contractors and others for using materials of an inferior quality or erecting buildings of faulty construction, was brought home to many of us during the severe storm of last October, and has engaged our attention, but as we are advised that our present

regulation on the subject of Building permits gives us ample powers, we do not propose asking you to add anything to the existing bye-law, but cases arising where ratepayers think it advisable for the Council to prosecute should be brought to our notice. In conclusion it is my pleasant duty to record on behalf of myself and my fellow councillors our complete satisfaction with the work of our Secretary Mr. Mitchell, who has displayed his customary tact and energy in the performance of his somewhat various and distinctly arduous duties.

Mr. BATHURST desired, before the accounts for 1908 and the budget for 1909 were brought forward for passing, to call attention to certain points in the accounts, budget and annual report. He would like to know why the prison, police and general charges had gone up in recent years, and mentioned several items; why the police staff, reduced from twenty-eight in 1904 to nineteen in 1908, cost more in the latter year in wages, and on what scale were the Land Commissioners paid?

Mr. WALLACE replied that while he could not accept Mr. Bathurst's figures as being by any means correct, the charges he mentioned must in the ordinary course increase automatically. The pay of the Police was progressive and included such items as a bonus on completion of engagement, deferred pay, and passage money to India, all of which tended to swell the total, and therefore these items must show an increase, and this, of course, would be more apparent in certain years than in others. The Land Commissioners were paid a fee of \$300 each, which was by no means excessive for the work they were called upon to do.

Mr. BATHURST then remarked that there were four sergeants in a force of nineteen, and suggested fewer sergeants and more men. As regards the annual report he would like to know how the Council arrived at the number of buildings on the Island?

Mr. WALLACE.—From the Land Commissioners.

Mr. BATHURST.—But it does not say so in the Budget. How do you arrive at the population?

Mr. WALLACE.—By the census, which was very kindly voluntarily taken by Mr. Gottwaldt of the Land Commission.

Mr. BATHURST.—If you have only taken a census once it is impossible to tell whether there has been an increase or decrease in the population. I do not agree to, or see the necessity of, an Assistant Secretary and Superintendent of Police, and as regards the Staff of the Council being a "one man show," if, as suggested in the Council's annual report, the present Secretary and Superintendent of Police goes on leave, although you engage an Assistant, it will still be a "one man show."

Mr. MENCARINI: I would like to know if the engagement of an Assistant is approved, whether his duties will be of a clerical nature, or will he be an outside man?

Mr. WILSON (Watch and Assessment Committee).—Mr. Wallace, the Chairman of the 1908 Council, has asked me to answer certain questions which have been raised. Anyone with a little common observation could see that in recent years the number of houses in the Settlement and the population has increased enormously. The Council's intention is that the proposed Assistant should be primarily for outdoor Police and Sanitary work, and so relieve Mr. Mitchell considerably. At present it is impossible for your Secretary and Superintendent of Police to go round the Island as often as he would like, or to give that personal attention to all matters, whether in connection with office or outside, which he did formerly, before the work increased to its present extent. As regards Mr. Mitchell's leave—which I venture to remark he has earned—and the remarks concerning the phrase "a one man show," his leave would not make much difference; it will simply mean that "the one man show" will continue a little longer that is all. Some of Mr. Bathurst's remarks were hardly pertinent.

Mr. BATHURST (interrupting), said he did not want any of that sort of thing.—(Laughter.)

Mr. WALLACE: You have misunderstood Mr. Wilson; he said "pertinent" not "impertinent" remarks.

Mr. WILSON also explained that he had not used the word "impertinent," and, continuing, said, it was necessary to have an Assistant.

Supposing, for instance, Mr. Mitchell's health was to break down, they would be in a bad way for they could not expect any Councillor they might elect to neglect his business to take up Mr. Mitchell's duties; he for one at any rate would not do so. Besides the work had increased to such an extent that it was impossible to carry on efficiently without an Assistant, and as years went by the work would still further increase.

Dr. OTTE proposed, seconded by Mr. THOMAS, that the accounts for 1908 be passed.

On being put to the meeting 43 were in favour, and the motion was accordingly passed.

It was proposed by Mr. SUNDIUS, seconded by Mr. F. H. EDWARDS, that the Estimates for 1909 be passed.

Mr. COGHILL desired to know whether the Island was run for the Chinese or the Foreigners?

The CHAIRMAN: Both.

Mr. COGHILL: What?

The CHAIRMAN: Both the Foreigners and the Chinese.

Mr. COGHILL complained that the Island was being run for the benefit of the Chinese.

Mr. WILSON said the Island was being run for the benefit of everybody, and he thought it only fair and right that the Chinese should have every consideration considering that more than half the municipal revenue was derived from purely Chinese sources.

Mr. THOMAS desired to move an amendment to the Estimates for 1909 as they at present stood; viz that the sum of \$2,000 shown in the Budget for 1909 to be expended on the Recreation Ground Pavilion be struck out, and the ruins of the old pavilion be handed over to the Kulangsu Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club, leaving it to the Club to make their own arrangements as to a new pavilion. As only a section of the community would benefit, it was hardly right to expend such a sum solely for this section. He further thought that the \$2,000 would be more usefully employed, having in view the number of recent robberies, in increasing the Police force.

Mr. BRAUN wished to know, before any motion was put to the meeting under what conditions the Recreation Ground was given to the Community. Was it to the whole Foreign community or only part of the community?

Mr. WALLACE explained the conditions under which the ground was held and the boundaries, which showed that part belonged to the Foreign community as a whole, and part to the Kulangsu Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club, and, in reply to a further question from Mr. BRAUN, stated that every member of the Foreign community is allowed to use the ground.

The amendment moved by Mr. THOMAS, seconded by Mr. MENCARINI, was then put to the meeting and carried by thirty-eight votes to one.

Mr. ARNOLD then moved that the \$2,000 struck out of the Budget be added to the amounts earmarked for expenditure on Police and Sanitary service in 1909, and wished to make a second amendment to the 1909 Estimates accordingly.

Mr. LEE having seconded, Mr. ARNOLD's amendment was put to the meeting and carried by thirty-three votes to one.

The Estimates for 1909, as amended by the above two amendments, were then put to the meeting and passed by thirty-eight votes to one.

THE ROADS.

On the CHAIRMAN asking whether any ratepayer desired to put any questions,

Dr. OTTE begged, in no spirit of criticism, to make a few remarks on the present method of building and repairing the roads in the Settlement, and said he had been desired to do so by the Chinese, and he was grateful to Mr. Wilson for making it plain that the Council considered the interests of the Chinese equally with the interests of the Foreigners. The so-called macadamising of the roads was really neither one thing nor the other, but he attached no blame to those responsible, for he fully realized the difficulties and he knew it was impossible to make a macadam road without the proper machinery for the purpose, and especially a steam roller. He would suggest to the incoming Council, and he felt sure they would take his remarks in the spirit in which they were meant, to try the experiment of roads paved with bricks. He could not agree with remarks in the

annual report on roads so constructed. The Chinese, and more especially the women with small feet, found some of the present roads a great trial to walk on.

RECENT ROBBERIES.

Mr. MENCARINI called attention to the number of deportees arriving at this port, and attributed many of the recent robberies to the operations of these experienced thieves. He suggested that the new Council should approach the Consular Body, with a view to their respective Governments being communicated with on the subject, and that the Territorial Officials be also asked to co-operate in the matter. After some further discussion on the subject,

COUNCILLORS RE-ELECTED.

The CHAIRMAN read out the following names of ratepayers offering themselves for election as Councillors for 1909:—Messrs. J. S. Fenwick, W. Kruse, S. Okuyama, W. Wilson, W. H. Wallace and A. H. Wilzer.

Mr. MENCARINI suggested that as only the requisite number of gentlemen offered themselves, the names be submitted to the meeting *en bloc*.

The CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. SUNDIUS, accordingly put the names to the meeting, and they were duly elected by thirty-eight votes to two.

With a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. ARNOLD, the meeting closed.

A meeting of the Council was held on the 26th January 1909, when there were present Messrs. W. H. Wallace (Chairman) Huang Ts'an Chew, W. Kruse, S. Okuyama, W. Wilson, the Health Officer (Dr. McDougall) and the Secretary (Mr. Berkeley Mitchell.)

THE CRITICISM OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. WALLACE, the Chairman, brought up the following report:—

"With reference to certain questions raised at the annual meeting of ratepayers by Mr. Bathurst concerning the accounts for 1908, of which no previous notice, private or otherwise, was given—the question therefore being so to speak sprung on us—and which it was impossible to fully answer offhand at the time, I have, as your Chairman, since gone into the figures and I will now give you the results, taking them in the order Mr. Bathurst had them on the paper he handed to the Chairman at the meeting. *Prison Charges*.—The increase is due to rise in price of food and fuel during the past two years, and to the fact that the cost of lighting the prison is now borne by prison charges account, whereas previous to moving into the new buildings the cost of lighting the old cells and barracks was debited against police charges account alone. The cost of lighting the new prison is considerably more than the old one. *Police Charges* for 1908 are the lowest since the inception of the Council. *General Charges*.—The increase is principally due to extraordinary expenditure in the shape of such items as:—Duty &c. on 50 stand of arms \$98; bonus of \$25 to tax collector for work in connection with the Land Commission; \$15 cost of taking the census, and some \$49 odd in extras on the new buildings. *Police*.—Mr. Bathurst asked "Why was the Police staff reduced from 28 in 1904 to 19 in 1908 at a cost of three hundred dollars more in wages." I find the strength of the force in 1904 was, from January to March, 24 Indians and one detective. From April to December one Inspector, 17 Indians and one Chinese detective; Cost in wages for the year \$5,546.80. This sum was for wages pure and simple, and all ranks were on the lowest rate of pay, none having sufficient service to be drawing either class or good conduct pay. No passage money, deferred pay or bonuses were included. In 1908, up to the end of November, the strength was one jemadar, three sergeants and fourteen constables, with one Chinese detective, or 19 in all. On the discharge of the jemadar, the force stood at 4 sergeants, 14 constables and 1 Chinese detective. The wages for the year came to \$5,840.14, which included deferred pay \$343.51, bonuses \$226.82 and passage money \$71.38, or a total of \$641.71 over and above ordinary pay, class pay and good conduct pay. It must also be remembered that we raised the pay of the Police in 1908 \$1.50 per man, per month, and that we have serving four men with over five years' service, 4 men with over 4, and three men with over three, all of whom are drawing class pay and good

conduct pay. A recruit starts at \$16.50 per month, and can rise as a constable to \$19.50 per month by an addition of \$1 in every 24 months. A sergeant, starts at \$22.50 and rises to \$26.50. Besides these rises, good conduct pay is issued after every 18 months' satisfactory conduct at \$1.50 per month, i.e. after 18 months' service \$1.50 after 36 months service another \$1.50 and so on. Therefore all those men still serving who were with us in 1904 must be drawing more pay in 1908. The proportion of sergeants to constables was also commented on, although those who criticise have overlooked the fact that the duties of our force are not confined entirely to police duties, but also embrace the supervision of sanitary work, and the duty of looking after the prison, and the working parties of prisoners outside on the roads &c., which two latter duties would anywhere else be performed by warders, hence the number of sergeants required. When the jemadar left at the end of November, the senior sergeant took over his duties, at a saving of some \$200 per annum, a constable being promoted sergeant in the senior sergeant's place. So that instead of having one jemadar and three sergeants, as in 1908, we now have 4 sergeants. No doubt, on the arrival of the Assistant to the Superintendent of Police, the Watch Committee will consider whether it is practical to reduce the number of sergeants.

THE OPIUM DIVANS.

Six opium shops were selected by ballot to be closed on April 12th, in accordance with the local regulations.

UNLICENSED PAWNBROKERS.

Before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on the 26th ult. two natives were prosecuted by Sergeant Gordon for keeping pawnbroking establishments on Chungchau Island without license.

Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) represented the first defendant and pleaded guilty on his behalf, and the second defendant also admitted the charge.

Mr. Dixon said there was no doubt his client had brought himself within the section of the Pawnbrokers Ordinance, but he would ask his Worship to deal leniently with him, or to discharge him. The defendant made awnings for sampans. He had lived on Chungchau for about twenty years, and his Worship would understand that his idea of the law with regard to pawnbrokers was very hazy. During the typhoon of last year many people living on this island lost their sampans and got into very straightened circumstances. The defendant repaired many damaged boats, and the owners gave him small articles of jewellery as security. That led to the defendant getting a reputation for assisting people who were hard up provided they gave him security, and thus he got into the way of carrying on this business without a licence. As he had only been doing business this way for about six months, Mr. Dixon asked his Worship to take into consideration the facts he had stated.

His Worship—He charged interest, I suppose?

Mr. Dixon—Yes, but interest is charged on overdue accounts, and the defendant has no intention of continuing the business, unless he takes out a licence. He does not give any receipts for these articles, and the people all trust him.

Sergeant Gordon—He does not do that on account of his own safety.

His Worship said it was rather a difficult matter to estimate the penalty. The defendant had been carrying on the business for some months and he could not have carried it on legally without paying a licence fee of \$400. Considering that he had defrauded the revenue of that amount, and estimating the profits he had made, his Worship said he would fine the defendant the maximum penalty of \$200. He also decided that the pawned articles should be returned, and the owners could obtain them by paying the principal and interest to date. Further interest was not permitted to be charged.

A similar decision was given against the second defendant.

CHINA NEW YEAR.

The great national festival of China was celebrated in the time honoured manner in Hongkong on the 22nd inst., and though there have been years when the Colony had more grounds for rejoicing than at present this was not apparent in the enthusiasm with which the Chinese sped the old year and welcomed the new year. Everywhere the spirit of the season was manifest, and the observances peculiar to the occasion seemed to be carried out more extensively than in recent years. One notable feature was the extraordinary display of Chinese flags. This was in honour of the first year of the reign of the new Emperor.

Of course fireworks played their usual predominant part. Firing commenced on Thursday and the noise, which at times resembled a bombardment, was heard without ceasing right on till Friday, being continued intermittently on Saturday and Sunday. Then the dragon processions with their quaint movements and vigorous beating of tom-toms contributed their quota to the fun and jollity of the crowds, which continually thronged the streets. The weather being fine, cold but bracing, encouraged the Chinese to follow their usual custom of walking in the streets arrayed in their best attire, and certainly this year witnessed as many beautiful garments as have ever been seen in the colony at this festival. They turned out in large numbers to pay ceremonial calls on Friday, and at night they settled down to indoor amusements. Feasts will be held practically throughout this week, though business will be resumed in a day or two.

Friday was also the anniversary of the succession of King Edward. The vessels in the harbour dressed ship in honour of the occasion and a salute was fired at noon.

GERMAN EMPEROR'S BIRTHDAY.

On Jan. 27 was the fiftieth anniversary of the birthday of H. I. M. the Kaiser, and the occasion was fittingly celebrated in Hongkong, the guns of the German men-of-war in port booming forth their "many happy returns" at noon, the good wishes being seconded by British warships. Dr. Voretzsch, the German Consul, held the usual reception at the consulate, where representatives of all nations called to pay their respects. Captain Mitchell-Taylor called on behalf of His Excellency the Governor, Captain Heathcote on behalf of General Broadwood, and Lieut. Blanchflower on behalf of Commodore Lyon.

In commemoration of the occasion Pastor Muller conducted a service yesterday morning on the German cruiser *Leipzig*, and in the afternoon the officers held a reception on board, which was largely attended. At the German Club last night a special dinner was held. All the British warships in port dressed ship in honour of the occasion.

THE MANILA CARNIVAL.

The great international carnival which opens at Manila on February 2nd is attracting the attention of sportsmen from all parts of the Far East, and as most of the big ports in the Orient will be represented in the sport, it follows that interest in the carnival extends far beyond the land over which the Stars and Stripes flutter. A cordial invitation was extended by the promoters to sportsmen in Hongkong and the Colony will be represented in several of the events. There are many men here who could give a good account of themselves, but opportunities did not offer for a few weeks' stay in Manila. There are these, however, who can be spared, and the best wishes of residents will go with them for all success in the Philippines. The Buffs are sending a polo team, and Lance-Corporal Anderson of the same regiment goes forth with a good reputation as a runner. We are also to be represented by a cricket eleven selected from the various regiments of the Garrison, while a boating crew will be despatched from H.M.S. *Monmouth*.

Mr. A. E. Ellis was to have gone to the Carnival as a representative of the V.R.C., but unfortunately he caught a cold while training, and on medical advice he has had to withdraw his name from the list of competitors.

SERIOUS SHOOTING AFFRAY AT YAUMATI.

EUROPEAN SERGEANT SHOT.

Scenes of wild excitement and disorder were witnessed at Yaumati on the 21st inst. consequent upon armed robbery. At about 10 p.m. five men, each carrying a revolver, entered the shop at 43, Kennedy Street, and at once threatened the master and his two foks with instant death, if they raised an alarm. They then tied the occupants of the premises together, placed them on a bed, obtained the key of the safe, and proceeded with their work of robbery. The thieves extracted from the safe notes and money to the extent of \$4,300, while from the shop till they took about \$60 and a silver watch. Having obtained all they desired, the robbers made their departure, but soon an alarm was raised, and the whole village was in a state of tumult as chase was given to the thieves. Lance-Sergt. Mills, of the Police, was soon on the track of the men, and had got within close distance of one of the men when the latter turned round on him and discharged the contents of his revolver into the police officer's abdomen causing him to drop to the ground immediately. Just prior to this, however, P. C. Hedge appeared on the scene, and seeing the shooting incident, he quickly made for the robber and brought him down with a shot. Both Lance-Sergt. Mills and his assailant were immediately taken across to Hongkong, and about eight hours after arrival the robber, an unusually big-framed man, died. Lance-Sergt. Mills was taken to hospital in a serious condition. Up to Saturday five arrests had been made in connection with the affair, but only two of these could be identified as being members of the gang.

Yesterday we learned that Lance-Sergt. Mills had succumbed to his injuries, his condition having been regarded as hopeless from the time of his admission to the hospital. The funeral takes place this afternoon.

The four natives arrested in connection with the fatal shooting affray which occurred at Yaumati on Thursday night were arraigned before Mr. Wood at the Magistracy on Jan. 25. They were charged with entering No. 43, Kennedy Street, Yaumati, while armed with revolvers, and stealing money and jewellery to the value of \$4,344.25 and with using personal violence. On a second count they were charged with killing and murdering Lance-Sergeant H. A. Mills. Accused were remanded for a week.

Chan Chi was placed before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Jan. 28th on a charge of armed robbery on the 19th inst. The defendant, armed with a dagger, and accompanied by two other natives not in custody, entered the dwelling of an Indian named Inder Singh at 18, Temple Street, and stole money and clothing to the value of \$50.

Bahader Singh, the first witness called, gave evidence to the effect that at 6 p.m. on the night of the robbery he left the house to go for a walk, locking the door behind him. When he returned at nine o'clock he found the door closed but the chain broken. On entering he saw a Chinaman running towards the kitchen, and seized him by the queue. The robber struggled, and with a dagger he held in his hand, cut witness across the throat, head and body. In the meantime two other Chinese who were in the cook house escaped by means of a rope which they descended. Witness held fast to the man who attacked him until the latter threw down the dagger. He then proceeded with him to the station, but meeting a lukong on the way, handed him over. Witness was unable to give a description of the other intruders, but he found that a box belonging to Inder Singh had been removed to the kitchen, broken open, and the contents scattered about.

Inder Singh gave evidence as to the property that had been stolen, and stated that he recognised the prisoner as a man he had previously seen going up to the floor above the one on which he lived.

Inspector Dymond deposed to seeing the defendant searched at the Yaumati Police Station, where certain of the exhibits before the Court were found on his person, also a sheath

which the dagger found at complainant's house fitted.

After hearing further evidence his Worship committed the defendant for trial at the Criminal Sessions.

SUCCESSFUL POLICE RAID.

The meshes of the law have closed in on one of the supposed bands of armed robbers who of late have terrorised the inhabitants of the Yaumati district, and gained for that district an unpleasant notoriety. On Wednesday night Inspector Dymond and a posse of police proceeded to Cheungshawan and surrounded a house suspected of being a den of thieves. When a guard had been set on all passages of escape the remainder of the police entered, ready for any emergency. As it happened, however, the inmates were unprepared for their visitors, and were soon placed under arrest. A search of the house followed, and besides a large quantity of stolen property and numerous pawn tickets, the police are said to have found many daggers and loaded revolvers.

We understand that some of the men arrested have an unenviable record. The police, however, are not yet disposed to disclose the story of the raid, but when the case is worked up some sensational facts are expected to be revealed.

FUNERAL OF LANCE-SERGEANT MILLS.

The remains of Lance-Sergeant H. A. Mills, the unfortunate young police officer whose tragic end was recorded in our last issue, were interred in the Happy Valley Cemetery on the 25th instant. The funeral was one of the largest known in the Colony for a police officer, and the large and cosmopolitan crowd of mourners who composed the cortege was a testimony to the popularity of the promising young officer whose sad end provoked general sympathy. Shortly after five o'clock the funeral passed the monument at Happy Valley, the hearse, which was laden with wreaths, being followed by a large body of police in full uniform. Following them was nearly a company of the Royal Garrison Artillery, of which deceased had formerly been a unit. Next came a squad of Indian Police, then a body of lukongs. These were followed by a number of Excise Officers, who were succeeded by many Chinese firemen. A body of native merchants from Yaumati and other parts of the colony next, and the rear of the mournful procession was brought up by civilian friends of the deceased.

The large concourse of mourners included the Hon. Mr. F. J. Badeley, Captain-Superintendent of Police, Mr. G. N. Orme, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. King, Deputy Superintendent, Lieut. W. Beckwith, R.N., Assistant Harbour Master, Mr. J. R. Wood, Second Police Magistrate, Superintendent Lane of the Fire Brigade, Chief-Detective Inspector Hanson, Chief Inspector Baker and numerous Police Inspectors.

The pall bearers were Lance-Sergeants Edwards, Foley, Fox, Burden, Watt and Brennah.

High up on the hillside the remains of Sergeant Mills were laid in their last resting place, the impressive funeral ceremony being conducted by the Rev. F. T. Johnson.

Among the numerous mourners who supplied wreaths were His Honour Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, Captain F. J. Badeley, Deputy-Superintendent King, the Detective Staffs and Police from all stations in the colony, Indian Jemidars and Sergeants-Major, Indian Sergeants and Constables, the sisters of the Government Civil Hospital, the staff-sergeants and sergeants of the 88th Co. R.G.A., the junior non-commissioned officers of the same company and the Chinese police, excise officers and firemen.

The Tramway Company provided special trams for the police mourners to return to the city.

A Washington telegram to a Manila contemporary states that, owing to personal differences with Mr. Luke Wright, the Secretary for War, Commissioner Tavera will shortly resign his position, and Commissioner Shuster, who is to report to the Secretary of War in the near future will not return to the Philippines.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB AND THE SHANGHAI INVITATION.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG
DAILY PRESS."]

DEAR SIR,—As certain statements with regard to the proposed visit of our Association XI to Shanghai and its subsequent abandonment have appeared in your columns, my Committee have desired me to write to you and clear up the following points. The invitation was from Club to Club and hence the use of the word "Interport" with regard to the fixture is a misnomer. I may point out in addition as a further proof of this that, through the Shanghai Football Club we received a challenge to play the Shanghai League, after playing our match with the Shanghai Football Club, but again no question of an "Interport" team arose. As to the statement that appeared in the Press that it was impossible for the Hongkong Football Club to send a team of its own members to Shanghai without paying their passages and supplying them with pocket money, I have to point out that this statement is quite erroneous for the following reason:—When at the last moment it was found necessary, in order to raise a team of any reasonable strength, to go outside the members of the Hongkong Football Club a special letter was written to Shanghai explaining this and regretting our inability to send a team composed entirely of our own members. This appeal to players outside the Hongkong Football Club entailed a heavy expenditure in passage money and expenses which the Club would have found it very difficult to raise and when further withdrawals took place it was deemed advisable to cancel the fixture, not without deep regret.

My Committee trust that this statement will clear up finally any uncertainty in the matter.—Yours faithfully.

H. L. O. GARRETT.
Hon. Secretary, H.K.F.C.

THE YUNNAN RAILWAY.

The Foreign Affairs Committee, telegraphs the correspondent of *The Times* in Paris on December 25, has now presented its report upon the Bill authorizing the Government of French Indo-China to raise a loan of £2,120,000 in order to meet the expenditure which has been charged to the Budget of that Dependency in connexion of the Yunnan Railway. The loan is to be guaranteed by the French Government. The reporter of the committee, M. Deloncle, Deputy for Cochinchina, reviews the financial and other vicissitudes of the enterprise since the concession for building the railway was granted by China ten years ago, and states that in consequence of various alterations in the plans the initial cost of the work will amount to £6,620,000, as compared with the original estimate of £3,840,000. Of this increase in the estimated cost a sum of £2,060,000 is to be borne by the colony and the remainder by the company to which the concession has been assigned. The hope is expressed that the work of construction will be superintended with greater care in the future than has been the case in the past, in order that the recurrence of costly errors may be avoided.

For the rest it is stated that so far the most difficult section of the line, the track from Laokai to Mengtze in the valley of the Nam-ti, has practically been completed. The constructors have to reach Mengtze by next April or May, and with the opening of this section it will become possible to conduct traffic over a considerable portion of the line. It is calculated that the line will have been laid as far as Yunnansen by 1910. In view of the results which have so far been obtained on the section which is already open to traffic the report expresses the confident expectation that, notwithstanding the inordinate cost of construction, the Yunnan Railway will yield good returns and will materially add to the economic resources of French Indo-China.

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL.

The annual meeting of Seatholders and Subscribers to St. John's Cathedral was held at St. Paul's College on Jan. 27th. The Bishop of Victoria presiding.

The meeting having been opened with prayer Mr. A. BRYER, (Hon. Secretary,) read the minutes of the last annual meeting which were confirmed.

Mr. RICHARD HANCOCK then presented his statement of accounts for 1908. He pointed out that the actual revenue for the year amounted to \$15,048.51 which shows an increase over the revenue of 1907, but still insufficient to cover the expenditure which amounted to \$16,481.90; thus exceeding the revenue to the extent of nearly \$1,500 which could only be called unsatisfactory, and showed the urgent need of further annual contributions. He made a special appeal on behalf of the Church Body last year both personally and through the medium of the Press for more funds and was sorry to say that it did not meet with the response which he had anticipated, though it helped him to raise the total contributions from \$2,540.50 in 1907 to \$4,043.00 last year. Of course, the Colony has been passing through very strenuous times lately, and people had not had the money to give as in former years, but it should be remembered that contributions, however small, were acceptable. It would be observed from the statement of accounts that there was a balance of \$1,500 to carry forward to this year, but this it must be remembered was only because they transferred at the beginning of the year some \$1,800 from the Reserve Fund. They should endeavour to keep this fund intact, and use it only as a reserve and not draw on it for current expenditure. This however judging from recent years it was impossible to do, unless contributions were more general in the future than they had been during the past two years. Turning to the question of few rents he regretted to say that there was still outstanding against 1908 the sum of \$180. He would take this opportunity of asking seatholders to be good enough to send in their amounts due for their pew rents as early as possible, and not wait till the second and third application has been sent them from the Hon. Treasurer. This would be of great assistance. He would also ask those seatholders who were leaving the Colony to notify the Hon. Treasurer so that he could make other arrangements for the disposition of their seats.

The Treasurer's accounts were then adopted on the motion of Hon. Mr. H. W. SLADE, and seconded by Mr. W. ARMSTRONG.

The following laymen were then elected by ballot for the Church Body for 1909; Hon. Mr. J. M. Atkinson; Mr. W. Armstrong, Hon. Mr. H. W. Slade, Mr. A. Bryer, Dr. Francis Clark, Mr. R. Hancock.

Mr. J. C. Peter was elected Auditor.

The BISHOP proposed a formal welcome to Rev. Arthur B. Thornhill, M. A., the Assistant Chaplain to the Cathedral, which was carried.

Rev. F. T. JOHNSON rose to propose a vote of thanks to all who had assisted during the year, to the Rev. G. A. Bunbury and A. D. Stewart for undertaking services, to the members of the Church Body, to the hon Treasurer Mr. R. Hancock and their Hon. Secretary Mr. A. Bryer and Mr. Peter who audited the accounts, to the teachers of the three Sunday schools under his care, to the Organist and members of the Cathedral Choir who he said were more than keen musicians, they were loyal fellow workers. The motion was seconded by the BISHOP and carried unanimously.

In conjunction with the organ repairs Mr. DENMAN FULLER said the choir were about to give a concert, the proceeds being for this fund, which the meeting hoped would be well supported.

News has been received of the death at Malta on the 24th instant, of another old resident in the Far East, viz: Mr. F. von der Pfordten, who after thirty years' service with the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, mostly in Java and latterly as District Manager in Hongkong, retired six years ago. His many friends will always remember his wonderfully kind nature which endeared him to all who knew him intimately, and they will sincerely sympathise with the widow and family in their sad loss.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HONGKONG BRANCH.

The annual report of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association is as follows:—

Gentlemen,—During the past year the attention of your Committee has been engaged upon a variety of subjects bearing upon British interests in China, and, whenever the circumstances have seemed to warrant it, representations have been made in the usual manner by telegram or letter to the London Branch or by letter to the Colonial Government.

BRITISH POST OFFICE IN TIENTSIN.

The first matter thus dealt with was an appeal from the Tientsin Branch in support of the efforts which they were making to retain the services of the British Post Office in that concession. Both Shanghai and Hongkong joined Tientsin in impressing upon the London Branch the importance of keeping the Office open, and the result of the Association's intervention in this particular case was, as you are aware, the institution of a new arrangement postponing the threatened closure for a period of one year. At the end of that time the problem thus temporarily disposed of will recur, when it is hoped that there will be found some more lasting method of solving it to the satisfaction of the Tientsin community.

YARN LOTTERY TICKETS.

The next occasion upon which it appeared that representation might usefully be made was provided by the introduction of lottery tickets as an incentive to the purchase of certain kinds of Japanese yarn. In a letter addressed to the London Branch on the 26th March, we directed attention to "the attraction thus held out to ignorant and thoughtless buyers, and even to those who, among the Chinese, are neither the one nor the other. Even in the case of the better class Chinese buyer national idiosyncracies must be reckoned with as rendering him peculiarly liable to be led away by a seductive appeal to chance, superimposed upon an otherwise comparatively dull bargain. The hope of securing a first prize of as much as 80 bales of the commodity could hardly fail to prejudice him in favour of buying a bundle of Osaka yarn rather than a Bombay bundle which offers no such alluring possibilities.

"The Bombay yarn trade is, of course, the interest more immediately and directly threatened, but, over and above consideration arising out of the importance of protecting that, there appears the larger possibility of an extension of this gambling principle into other branches of commerce, and British merchants, debarred by law from competing on such terms, have every reason to fear an innovation which contains a real danger to reputable trade." The contention was set up that "though possibly no ground for formal objection exists, the matter may not improperly be made the subject of informal protest and friendly diplomatic remonstrance."

It is a source of satisfaction to all well wishers to Japan that the ephemeral advantage thus sought after by certain manufacturers, has apparently been abandoned in deference to considerations of a higher order urged upon them by widespread public opinion.

THE "TATSU MARU" INCIDENT.

Following hard upon, and completely overshadowing, the interest created locally by this disturbing development in competitive methods came the *Tatsu Maru* incident. The disastrous results of that incident were not clearly foreseen at the outset, but the correspondence which passed between this and the London Branch would show that your Committee were alive to the situation, and at least apprehended the dangers inherent in it. The worst of these having passed away, no useful purpose would now be served by the publication of that correspondence, but members may rest assured of the close attention paid to the subject both in its local and in its larger aspect.

TRADE MARKS.

Another subject frequently discussed and written about was the growing menace to the prospects of British commerce in the Far East from the imitation of trade marks. The whole question of the proper protection of trade marks has occupied a large space in the work of the year, but as the correspondence between the London

Branch and the Foreign Office, and between the local Branch and the Colonial Government, has been invariably confidential, it can find no place in this report. The results have, however, been satisfactory in so far as that many doubtful points have been cleared up, and evidence has been shown of an earnest desire, on the part of all British Officials concerned, to safeguard, in every way in their power, the interests of the mercantile community.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

It need hardly be said that the question of railways in China has been continually in the minds of the members of your Committee. Very little correspondence has, however, passed concerning it, as the larger question more immediately affecting the interests of the Colony—the progress of the Canton-Hankow line—has not emerged into any such practicable shape as to render representation of any avail. Recent events indicate that the Chinese Authorities are coming to realise the inadvisability of waiting until China possesses the capital and engineering skill requisite for the building of the northern section, and it is to be hoped that the existing rumours of a foreign loan, to be devoted to that purpose, will prove true.

The work of construction on the Kwangtung section has been watched with interest. It is pleasant to chronicle a great improvement during the year in the rate of progress, but it is at least doubtful whether development is proceeding along lines best suited to the ultimate requirements of a great trunk railway. There is danger lest the claims of the future should be made subservient to a shortsighted anxiety to secure immediate returns.

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

As regards the Chinese section of the Kowloon-Canton line we have had to remark upon the slowness of the progress made and the difficulties which seemed to beset the acquisition of the requisite land. These difficulties contrast unfavourably with the easy manner in which Mr. Lementi succeeded in purchasing for the Colonial Government the land required for the British section of the line, and it is significant that not only was he able to buy more expeditiously but cheaper, and without in any way causing trouble among the villagers. The Chinese Officials entrusted with a similar task on the other side of the frontier are reported to have met with opposition, from which it is reasonable to conclude either that they are not paying their way with that promptitude which placated the land-owners of New Territory, or that the requisite authority from the Viceroy has been withheld. But though we have had to deplore slow progress there seemed no way open to us by which we could assist in accelerating it, and only with reference to certain practical difficulties, displaying some of the inconveniences of Chinese control over the Engineer-in-Chief, we on one occasion to request the assistance of the London Branch. The matter at issue was ultimately settled in a satisfactory manner and we have not since heard of any similar attempts, on the part of a set of men who are inevitably ill-informed, to act in direct defiance of qualified advice.

SUBSIDIARY COIN.

Upon the subject of the difficulties created for this Colony by the erratic management of the Canton Mint representations have again been made. Writing to the London Branch in April we said:—"It will be within your recollection that, some two years ago, in consequence of an excessive issue of subsidiary coin by the Canton Mint Authorities that 'commodity' fell to 10½ per cent discount, dragging down in its descent, almost to the same level, Hongkong 10 cent pieces. It does not pay to issue it at a higher discount, and the end of the immediate advantages of a reckless policy thus appearing in sight the authors of it were brought to realise the attendant evils, with the result that they accepted good advice, previously offered in vain, and arrested the pace of the output. They even went so far as to promise Sir Matthew Nathan to stop the issue altogether for three months. Whether this promise was kept is questionable, but there is no doubt that for some considerable time the output was reduced.

"The Mint Authorities continued this self-denying policy until by degrees the discount

had fallen as low as 4½ per cent. Then apparently the temptation to seize the profit thus held out became irresistible, and little by little the pace of the output was increased.

"In consequence the discount has been steadily rising until now it has reached 8½ per cent. and the question threatens to become again acute.

"In discussing the question the local press rightly indicates the radical cure for this recurring evil, namely, the fulfilment of the clause in the Mackay treaty by which China undertook to establish a uniform currency.

"Until that reform shall have been accomplished the existing temptation to the Provincial Mints of making a profitable business out of coining will prove too much for their powers of resistance.

"I have to add that informal representations made by the Governor of Hongkong to the Viceroy of Canton, and also, I believe by the Minister at his recent interview, elicited an equally informal undertaking that the Mint Authorities will be restrained."

Judging by the result, and noting the fall in the discount as the year drew towards its close, it would appear that the Mint Authorities have been exercising some discretion, but it is not possible yet to feel any security against a recrudescence of their former policy.

HONGKONG OPIUM REVENUE

The serious question raised for this Colony by the inconsiderate action of His Majesty's Ministers, in suddenly announcing an early intention of closing the opium houses, seemed to the members of your Committee to call for prompt representation, and at once the following telegram was despatched to the Home Branch.

"Press telegrams state British Government announced in House of Commons intention issue immediately order Hongkong Government close opium houses forthwith. This would impose considerable financial hardship as owing to opium farmer's contract does not expire until February, 1910, it would apparently involve payment large compensation in addition to prospective loss revenue. Unfair dislocate Colony's finance so suddenly. Urge you represent need proceeding less drastically. Time required gradual readjustment burden taxation."

By letter the colony's view of the case was strongly urged upon the London Committee and the replies received showed that we could confidently count upon ready sympathy and active support. The details of the subsequent development of this affair are, in the main, too well known for recapitulation, but it may interest members to learn the nature of the suggestions made from here in response to a request made by the London Chairman for an opinion upon a plan of gradual reduction whereby the burden of taxation would be eventually readjusted without any violent dislocation of the Colony's finances. The underlying idea of this plan was that instead of closing the opium houses the number of chests drawable yearly by the Farmer should be steadily reduced. The details were worked out upon the figures for the past three years and commenting upon this we wrote as follows:—

"The number of chests actually drawn by the Farmer during the last three years is exceptionally low.

These years have been bad years in every respect and the period is too short to give a fair average. The average for the last 10 years is slightly over 1000.

"In view of this figure it is, in the opinion of this Committee, justifiable to recommend that:—

"(1) The divans be not interfered with during the period of the present farm, but that the number of chests drawable be reduced from 1,800 to 1,200 per annum."

"(2) That in the new contract, to be made in 1910, the number be reduced to 900 chests per annum."

"(3) That in 1913 a scheme of annual reduction be adopted, the details of which shall depend upon the progress of China's efforts to eradicate poppy cultivation."

We have not heard whether these suggestions recommended themselves to the London Committee, but we trust that they will receive the approval of members.

OPIUM MONOPOLIES.

Another development of the opium question which necessitated our taking action, arose when

the Provincial Authorities at Canton made an attempt to establish a monopoly. The case was on all fours with that successfully fought against the Nanking Viceroy last year. On being put in possession of the facts we at once wired to London as follows:—

"Kwangtung authorities issued notification placing restrictions upon sale opium calculated create monopoly; seriously threatens British Indian trade; beg you represent agreement reduction Indian trade; does not alter existing treaty obligations governing conditions sale."

The promptness and energy displayed by the British Consul-General in Canton sufficed to stay the Viceroy's hand, and the restrictions complained of were withdrawn.

But, although it was understood that their withdrawal applied to the whole of the Kwangtung Province, no long time elapsed before the discovery was made that they had not been rescinded in the Swatow district, and that steps were being taken to carry them into force.

An account of these proceedings, with which we were furnished, was passed on to the London Branch by letter, but again through the activity and firmness of the Consul-General at Canton the situation was straightened out before it had time to develop any awkward features.

THE BANISHMENT ORDERS.

A situation in which the Colony was more immediately and vitally concerned arose out of a late development of the Japanese boycott when, on suspicion of being prominent in encouraging the ill-feeling which ultimately led to riot and disorder, a number of Chinese residents were served with notices of banishment. The number of those who had not disguised their sympathies in this matter being considerable, great uneasiness prevailed throughout the Chinese Community, and feeling at one time ran so high that your Committee felt justified in appealing to the Colonial Government to relieve it. The reception of our communications led to believe that our action was recognised as being prompted solely by an earnest desire to serve the public interest and we had reason subsequently to think that it was not inopportune.

RELATIONS WITH OFFICIALS

In this as in all other matters in which we have had to deal with the Colonial Government—and have had considerable correspondence, mainly relating to The Registration of Trade Marks and the proposed Trade Marks convention with Japan—the attitude of the Secretariat has been consistently courteous and helpful.

And it is not only with the Officials of the Colonial Government that we have sought to maintain good relations. Your Committee were privileged to entertain privately His Britannic Majesty's Minister to Peking on the occasion of his visit to the Colony in April, when he avowed himself at all times anxious to hear the views of the mercantile community.

Similar assurances on behalf of the General Committee were given to us by the Association's President, Mr. J. H. Scott, whom also we had the pleasure of entertaining recently—H. E. the Governor honouring the occasion by his presence. The President stated that the views advanced by each Branch invariably received the most earnest and careful attention of those who conduct the business of the Association at home, and begged us to believe that in communicating the opinions of the British Merchantile Community of Hongkong we were always certain of gaining an interested and sympathetic hearing.

THE RETIRING COMMITTEE.

The members of the retiring Committee are:—

Mr. D. R. Law, Mr. H. E. Tomkins, Mr. C. H. Ross, Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar, Mr. W. G. Humphreys, Hon. Mr. H. W. Slade, Mr. E. G. Barrett, Mr. H. R. B. Hancock, Mr. A. S. D. Cousland (Hon. Secretary), and

M. STEWART,
Chairman.

Bangkok newspapers report the death of Mr. C. J. Naylor, the leader of the local Bar, at the early age of 44. Mr. Naylor had been practising at Bangkok for nearly 15 years, and His Honour Judge Skinner Turner, in a public reference in the British Court for Siam, described Mr. Naylor's death as a great loss to the administration of Justice in Siam.

INTERNATIONAL OPIUM COMMISSION.

The following list, supplied by Dr. Hamilton Wright of the American Opium Commission, contains the names of the Commissioners to the International Opium Commission. The names of the representatives of Persia and Turkey have not yet been received:—

United States of America.—(Convenors of the Commission).—Bishop Brent, Dr. Hamilton Wright and Dr. C. D. Tenney.

China.—H. E. Tuan Fang, (High Commissioner), Taotai Lew Yuk-lin, Mr. Tong Kai-son and Dr. Hsu Wah-ching (Commissioners), H. E. Jui Cheng and H. E. Tsai Nai-huang (Special Commissioners), Messrs. F. A. Carl, J. I. Chalmers and Wu Pao-yen (Associate Commissioners).

France.—MM. L. O. Ratard, Brenier and Cornillon.

Germany.—Dr. Raessler and Dr. G. Pernizsch.

Great Britain.—Sir Cecil Clementi-Smith, Sir Alexander Hosie, Messrs. Mackenzie King, James Bennett Brunyate, R. Laidlaw, M.P., and C. Clementi, Assessor.

Japan.—H. E. Tsuneziro Miyooka, Dr. R. Tahara and Dr. T. Takagi.

The Netherlands.—Mijnheer A. A. de Jong and Mijnheer W. G. van Wettum.

Portugal.—Senhor C. G. Potier and Comendador G. A. R. d'Assumpcao.

Russia.—Mr. C. Kleimenow.

Siam.—Phya Sakdi Seni, Luang Visuta Kosa and Hhra Manas Manit.

The following letter is of interest as throwing light on the origin of the International Opium Commission which assembles on February 1.

Bishop's House,

Manila, P. I., July 24, 1906.

My dear Mr. PRESIDENT,—I am going to make bold to suggest that which I venture to think might be fruitful of great good if you can see your way to initiate the movement. It is this: recently, as of course you are aware, the question of England's share in the opium traffic has been re-opened in official circles in the Old Country. My experience on the Philippine Opium Investigating Committee leads me to believe that the problem is of sufficient merit to warrant an endeavour to secure international action. From the earliest days of our diplomatic relations with the East, the course of the United States of America has been so manifestly high in relation to the traffic in opium, that it seems to me almost our duty, now that we have the responsibility of actually handling the matter in our own possessions, to promote some movement that would gather in its embrace representatives from all countries where the traffic in, and use of, opium is a matter of moment.

Why could we not hope to have an investigation on the basis of science as well as of practical observation of actual conditions, in which England, France, Holland, China and Japan should take part with ourselves? The sole hope for the Chinese is in concerted action. As a side issue, but as a consideration that in my mind would enhance the value of the movement, it would tend to unify in some measure nations that are Oriental either by nature or through the possessions of dependencies in the Orient. Nothing tends to promote peace more than a common aim.

I shall not enlarge on the matter, as I feel that your mind will grasp the situation at once, and will see all that I have in my mind, as well as considerations that have not occurred to me. I would add that I have partially prepared a paper on Opium Legislation in the East in which it is my purpose to incorporate the substance of this letter. As I am trying to work on this subject with accuracy and care, it may be some months before it sees the light, but it is destined for an American periodical.

With high esteem, I remain

Yours very faithfully.

(Signed) H. BRENT.

Bishop of the Philippine Islands.

The President,
The White House,
Washington D. C.

H. E. Shum, formerly Viceroy of Canton, has been summoned by the Regent to Peking to take up an important post in the Government.

COMPANY REPORTS.

HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT
& AGENCY COMPANY.

The twentieth report of the Board of Directors to the ordinary meeting of shareholders to be held at the Company's Offices, Victoria Buildings on Thursday, the 28th January, states:—

Gentlemen,—The Directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the Company, and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1908.

The net profits for that period, including \$36,915.47 balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, amount to \$384,975.12. From this amount an interim dividend of \$3.50 per share has already been paid. It is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$3.50 per share, and after writing off Directors' and Auditor's fees there remains a balance of \$26,475.12 to be carried forward to the credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. A. Fuchs and A. J. Raymond having resigned, Messrs. C. G. R. Brodersen and C. S. Gubbay were invited to join the Board in their places and these appointments now require confirmation.

Mr. C. G. R. Brodersen having died, Mr. H. A. Siebs has been invited to fill the vacancy, and his appointment now requires confirmation.

Messrs. H. P. White and H. A. Siebs now retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. J. Cox-Edwards and H. Percy Smith, who now retire, but offer themselves for election.

W. J. GRESSON,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 12th January, 1909.

Balance Sheet 31st December, 1908.

LIABILITIES.	
Capital	\$5,000,000.00
Equalization of dividend fund ..	250,000.00
Accounts payable	1,632,036.18
Balance of profit and loss account	\$384,975.12
Less interim dividend paid	175,000.00
	209,975.12
	\$7,092,011.30

ASSETS.	
Cash	\$ 5,846.73
Amount advanced on mortgage ..	945,950.00
Amount invested in property ..	6,087,956.19
Furniture Account	4,277.92
Accounts Receivable	47,980.46
	\$7,092,011.30

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.
for the year ending 31st December, 1908.

To interim dividend of 3½ per cent. for the half-year	175,000.00
To charges account	28,918.29
To repairs to house property	35,104.70
To advertising	884.85
To fire insurance	20,372.58
To legal expenses	901.79
To interest on loans payable	98,179.27
To less interest on mortgages	82,386.64
	15,792.63
To balance to be appropriated as follows:	
To directors' fees	7,500.00
To auditors' fees	1,000.00
To final dividend of 3½ per cent for the half-year	175,000.00
To balance to be carried to new account ..	26,475.12
	209,975.12
	\$ 486,949.96

By undivided profits 1907	\$ 36,915.47
By rents	440,574.54
By commission	9,332.95
By scrip fees	127.00
	\$ 486,949.96

HONGKONG LAND RECLAMATION
CO., LTD.

The seventh report of the board of directors to the ordinary meeting of shareholders to be held at the Company Offices, Victoria Buildings, at 11.15 a.m., on Thursday, the 28th January, is as follows:—

Gentlemen,—The Directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the company, and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1908.

The net profits for the year, including \$287,410.99 brought forward from last account after paying all charges amount to \$287,825.23. It is now proposed to pay a Dividend of 7 per cent. on the paid up capital after providing for which and writing off Directors' and Auditors' fees there remains a balance of \$217,100.23 to be carried to credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. A. J. Raymond having resigned, Mr. C. S. Gubbay, was invited to join the Board and this appointment now requires confirmation.

Messrs. E. Shellim and C. S. Gubbay, now retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gourdin, who now retire, and are recommended for re-election.

W. J. GRESSON,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 14th January 1909

Balance Sheet, December 31st, 1908:—

LIABILITIES.	
Capital—25,000 shares at \$100 each	\$ 2,500,000
of which are issued	
12,500 shares at \$100 each =	
\$1,250,000	
\$75 per share paid up, ..	937,500.00
Loans Payable, ..	362,250.00
Accounts Payable, ..	1,946.35
Balance of Profit and Loss A/c., ..	287,825.23
	\$1,589,521.58

ASSETS.	
Cash	\$ 4,885.34
Amount invested in mortgages ..	277,486.08
Amount invested in property ..	1,291,172.98
Furniture	658.33
Accounts Receivable ..	15,318.85
	\$1,589,521.58

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.	
Dr.	\$ c.
To Charge Account	7,631.90
„ Repairs to Property	594.80
„ Crown Rent Account	1,894.00
„ Government Rates Account	446.16
„ Fire Insurance Account	487.75
„ Balance to be appropriated as follows:—	
Directors' Fees,	\$ 5,000.00
Auditors' Fees,	100.00
Dividend of 7 per cent. for the year	65,625.00
Balance to be carried to New A/c.	217,100.23
	287,825.23
	\$ 298,879.03

Cr.	\$ c.
By Balance from 1907 ..	287,410.99
By Interest ..	5,798.45
By Rents ..	5,663.59
By Scrip Fees ..	6.00
	\$298,879.03

WEST POINT BUILDING COMPANY.

The twentieth report of the general agents to the ordinary meeting of shareholders to be held at the company's offices, Victoria Buildings, on Thursday, the 28th January, states:—

Gentlemen,—The General Agents now submit to you a statement of the affairs of the Company, and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1908.

The net profits for the year, including the amount brought forward from the previous year, amount to \$52,518.15. From this amount an interim dividend of \$2.00 per share has already been paid, and after writing off Direc-

tors' and Auditor's fees, it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$2.00 per share, making a total dividend for the twelve months of \$4.00 per share, and to carry forward the balance of \$1,968.15 to credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Hon. Mr. H. Keswick, Messrs. A. J. Raymond and A. G. Wood, having retired, Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Messrs. C. S. Gubbay and J. W. C. Bonnar have been appointed in their stead, and these appointments now require confirmation.

Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson and Mr. C. S. Gubbay now retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDIT.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. J. Cox-Edwards, who offers himself for re-election.

A. SHELTON HOOPER,

Secretary to the Hongkong Land Investment & Agency Co., Ltd.,

General Agents for the West Point Building Co., Ltd.

Hongkong 12th January, 1909.

Balance Sheet 31st December, 1908.

LIABILITIES.	
Capital	\$625,000.00
Accounts payable	902.63
Balance of profit and loss account	\$52,518.15
Less interim dividend paid	\$25,000.00
	27,518.15
	\$653,420.78

ASSETS.	
Cost of property	614,801.81
Cash	38,618.97
	\$653,420.78

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.	
Dr.	\$ c.
To fire insurance	\$3,322.75
To charges	316.44
To crown rent	818.00
To repairs to buildings	2,420.54
To commission to agents	2,683.00
To interim dividend of \$2.00 half-year ..	25,000.00
To balance to be appropriated as follows:—	
Directors' fees	\$ 500.00
Auditor's fees	50.00
Dividend of \$2 per share ..	25,000.00
Balance to be carried to new account	1,968.15
	27,518.15
	\$62,078.88

Cr.	\$ c.
By balance brought forward	\$ 1,541.31
By rent	60,000.00
By interest	520.57
By scrip fees	17.00
	\$62,078.88

HONGKONG CANTON AND MACAO
STEAMBOAT COMPANY.

The report of the Board of Directors to the ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders to be held on Tuesday, the 9th February, is as follows:—

The Directors beg to submit to the shareholders the report and statement of accounts for the half-year ending 31st December last.

After paying running expenses, salaries, premium of insurance, repairs and all other charges, there remains, including \$17,755.84, brought forward from last account, the sum of \$185,279.30 at credit of profit and loss account. From this amount the Directors recommend that a dividend for the half-year of One dollar and twenty-five cents per share or \$100,000 be paid to shareholders, \$20,000 be written off book value of steamers, \$5,000 written off book value of wharves and properties, \$20,000 be transferred to depreciation and insurance fund, \$20,000 to account of special repairs fund, leaving a balance of \$20,279.30 to be carried forward to new account.

Two new tail-shafts and propellers have been constructed for the steamer *Heungshan*, and fitted at her recent docking, and a new spare paddle-shaft ordered from England for the steamer *Honam*. The usual Government

survey and overhaul of the steamers *Kinshan*, *Sui An* and *Sui Tai* have been effected during the half-year and the fleet is in good running order.

On the 14th July last, Mr. H. E. Tomkins resumed his former seat on the Board. Mr. C. Thiel resigned his seat, in consequence of his departure from the Colony, and Mr. R. Fuhrmann was nominated by the Directors to fill the vacant seat. The regrettable death of Mr. C. Brodersen on the 4th of October last, created a vacancy on the Board and Mr. H. A. Siebs has been nominated by the Directors in his place. These nominations are subject to confirmation by the shareholders at this meeting.

The retiring auditors, Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. Hutton Potts, offer themselves for re-election.

R. SHEWAN.

Chairman.

Hongkong, 26th January, 1909.

LIABILITIES.

Amount of Capital, 80,000 Shares of \$15 each fully paid up	\$1,200,000.00
Amount at Credit of Depreciation and Insurance Fund	587,500.00
Amount at Credit of Equalization of Dividend Fund	250,000.00
Amount at Credit of Investment Fluctuation Fund	79,428.85
Amount at Credit of Special Repairs Fund	5,344.81
Unclaimed Dividends	4,724.75
Sundry Creditors	57,996.85
Bills Payable	45,497.47
Amount at Credit of Profit and Loss A/c.	185,279.30
	<u>\$2,395,772.03</u>

ASSETS.

Value of Steamers <i>Honnm</i> , <i>Heungshan</i> , <i>Sui An</i> , <i>Sui Tai</i> and <i>Hoi Sang</i> and 3ths of <i>Kinshan</i> and 3rd of <i>Sainam</i> , <i>Nanning</i> , <i>Lantan</i> , and <i>Sanui</i>	\$1,082,638.42
Value of Lighters <i>Sundee</i> and <i>Wolee</i>	8,000.00
Value of Wharves, Hulks and Moorings	144,744.26
Value of Properties at Canton, Kongkum and Wuchow	128,796.77
Value of Spare Gear and Stores	22,152.09
Value of Furniture	1,000.00
Value of Shares in Public Companies	575,132.00
Value of Chinese Bonds	693.18
Loans on Mortgage	322,000.00
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Current Account	23,268.10
Interest accrued	824.26
Sundry Debtors	28,535.68
Bills Receivable	48,908.40
Marine and Fire Insurance	
Premia paid on account of 1909	9,078.87
	<u>\$2,395,772.03</u>

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	
To Amount paid for repairs to steamers	\$20,144.18
To Amount paid for repairs to steamers A/c typhoon damage	2,284.39
To Amount paid for repairs to Company's Hongkong Wharf A/c typhoon damage	7,422.79
To Directors and Auditors' Fees	4,750.00
Balance to be appropriated, viz.:	
To Dividend of \$1.25 per share on 80,000 shares	\$100,000.00
To be written off book value of Steamers	20,000.00
To be written off book value of Properties and Wharves	5,000.00
To be carried to Depreciation and Insurance Fund	20,000.00
To be carried forward to Special Repairs Fund	20,000.00
To be carried forward to New Account	20,279.30
	<u>185,279.30</u>
	<u>\$219,880.66</u>

Cr.	
By amount brought forward from last account	\$17,755.84
By net earnings of steamers	167,001.34
By interest on investments	35,042.98
By transfer fees	80.50
	<u>\$219,880.66</u>

DEPRECIATION AND INSURANCE FUND.

Dr.	
To Balance	\$587,500.00
	<u>\$587,500.00</u>

Cr.	
By Amount at Credit	\$575,000.00
By Amount brought forward from Profit and Loss Account for Half Year ending 30th June, 1908	12,500.00
	<u>\$587,500.00</u>

EQUALIZATION OF DIVIDEND FUND.

Dr.	
To Balance	\$250,000.00
	<u>\$250,000.00</u>

Cr.	
By Amount at Credit	\$250,000.00
	<u>\$250,000.00</u>

SPECIAL REPAIRS FUND.

Dr.	
To sundry disbursements	\$12,310.88
To balance	5,344.81
	<u>\$17,655.69</u>

Cr.	
By amount at credit	\$7,655.69
By amount brought forward from profit and loss account for half year ending 30th June, 1908	10,000.00
	<u>\$17,655.69</u>

CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE COMPANY LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twelfth ordinary general meeting to be held on Saturday, next is as follows:—

Annexed we have the pleasure to lay before shareholders a statement of accounts made up to 31st December 1908.

The gross earnings for the past year amount to \$190,223.18 and after deducting all expenses, remuneration to General Managers, Consulting Committee's and Auditors' fees, there remains a balance of \$113,407.68 which it is recommended be appropriated as follows, viz.:

To place to reserve fund	\$10,000.00
To pay a dividend of 80 cents per share	\$100,000.00
To carry forward to the credit of next year's account	\$3,407.68

Consulting Committee.—In accordance with the Articles of Association, Messrs. J. S. Van Buren, Chow Hing Kee, Dr. J. W. Noble, H. P. White and U Poi On retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts, who are recommended for re-election.

To cover depreciation on investments (amounting to \$22,150.00) and other contingencies, \$30,000.00 has been withdrawn from the reserve fund which will now stand at \$100,000.00.

SHEWAN TOMES & Co.
General Managers.

Hongkong 29th January 1909.

PROFIT AND LOSS.

Consulting committee's fees	\$4,000.00
Auditors' fees	200.00
Charges	7,525.22
Depreciation on godown furniture for the year 1908	313.15

Written off to doubtful debts and contingencies account	30,000.00
Balance	113,407.68
	<u>\$ 155,446.05</u>

Balance carried forward from last year	\$3,593.29
Interest received, storages, rents, etc.	178,592.18
Less interest paid, commission, &c.	68,370.42
	<u>110,221.76</u>
Transfer fees	11.00
Investment income account	11,620.00
Amount transferred from reserve fund to meet contingencies and depreciation on shares	30,000.00
	<u>\$ 155,446.05</u>

BALANCE SHEET.

Authorised capital—200,000 shares at \$10—\$2,000,000 issued as per last report 125,000 shares at \$10 each	\$1,250,000.00
Reserve fund	90,000.00
Sundry creditors	352,301.06
Balance of profit and loss account	113,407.68
	<u>\$ 1,805,708.74</u>

Loans on provident system	519,527.09
Loans on mortgages, shares, &c.	674,955.31
	<u>\$1,194,482.40</u>

Investment of reserve fund 8,800 shares Green Island Cement Co., Ltd. at \$10, \$88,000.00	
250 China Light and Power Company Ltd. Debentures at \$100	25,000.00
	<u>113,000.00</u>

Property at West Point (Po On Godowns and other property)	\$854,250.00
Since expended	1,785.86
	<u>\$856,035.86</u>
Less on mortgage	450,000.00
	<u>406,035.86</u>

4,500 shares China Light and Power Co., Ltd. at	\$5.00	22,500.00
Godown furniture	2,313.15	
Less depreciation	313.15	2,000.00

Proportion of premium on unexpired policies	1,141.59
Sundry debtors	60,293.74
Cash in hand	\$6,055.15
Cash at godown	200.00
	<u>6,255.15</u>
	<u>\$1,805,708.74</u>

HALF YEARLY DIVIDENDS.

The Directors of Humphrey's Estate and Finance Co., Ltd recommend a dividend of 6 per cent. The net profit for the year amounts to \$90,865.04 but with the balance brought forward from last account there is a sum of \$95,486.15 available for appropriation. The dividend recommended will absorb \$90,000, and the balance is to be carried to new account.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Shanghai Land Investment Co., held last week, a final dividend of six per cent. and a bonus of Tls. 2 per share, was declared for the half-year ending December 31, 1908.

We are officially informed that, subject to audit, the Directors of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., will recommend at the forthcoming meeting a dividend of 8%=\$4. per share, pass \$21,000, to special account, write \$23,000 off cosmopolitan Docks and Floating Plant and carry forward about \$384,000.

PUBLIC COMPANY MEETINGS.

HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT
AND AGENCY CO., LD.

The twenty-first ordinary meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at the company's offices, Victoria Buildings, on the 28th ult. Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson presided, and there were also present Sir Paul Chater and Messrs. E. Shellim, H. P. White, C. S. Gubbay, H. A. Siebs, G. Friesland (directors), A. Shelton Hooper (secretary), J. A. Jupp, H. N. Mody, J. M. E. Machado, F. Ellis, A. Rodger, H. Percy Smith, W. E. Clarke and D. R. Moss.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, I propose, with your permission, to take the report and accounts as read. Dealing first with the balance sheet, I have to point out that our investments are practically the same as for the previous year, the differences being a slight increase in amount advanced on mortgage, some \$12,000, and a decrease of \$13,800 in our property investments. This decrease is due to the sale of a portion of the Godown property on Praya East formerly occupied by the Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company. The balance of the original lot is in course of conversion into dwelling houses and the laying out of a new street from Queen's Road East to Praya East. This street will be acquired and paid for by the Government. This re-development of the property was, in the opinion of your directors, rendered necessary by the transfer of the godown business to other districts. Turning to profit and loss account you will observe that our net profits on the year's working are \$348,059.65 as against \$364,728.05 in 1907, a decrease of \$16,668.40 brought about by the additional repairs necessitated by the typhoon of July last. Rents for the whole year, notwithstanding the loss of \$12,000 which was incurred by the godowns which I have referred to as in the course of conversion, are virtually the same as last year. In interest and charges accounts, the slight differences are, I am pleased to say, on the right side. If any further information is desired I shall be pleased to offer it, before formally moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. JUPP—I have much pleasure in seconding the motion, and I think shareholders will agree that, considering the present severe depreciation in property and in trade generally, we have every reason to be satisfied with the results put before us.

The motion on being put was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. MACHADO, seconded by Mr. MODY, the confirmation of the appointment of Messrs. C. G. R. Brodersen, C. S. Gubbay and H. A. Siebs to the directorate was confirmed.

It was proposed by Mr. ELLIS that Messrs. H. P. White and H. A. Siebs should be elected directors.

Mr. RODGER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Messrs. J. Cox-Edwards and H. Percy Smith were re-appointed auditors on the motion of Captain CLARKE, seconded by Mr. ELLIS.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants will be ready on application, gentlemen. Thank you very much for your attendance.

HONGKONG LAND RECLAMATION
COMPANY.

The eighth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the above company was held on Jan. 28 at the offices, Victoria Buildings. The Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson presided and there were also present Sir Paul Chater, and Messrs. C. S. Gubbay, (directors), J. H. Seth, H. Percy Smith, A. Shelton Hooper A. E. Asger, Ho Fook, Ho Kom Tong, J. C. Peter, C. H. Ross, Lo Cheung Shui, E. L. Hughes, and Mowbray S. Northcote (secretary).

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen. The report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for the past week we may, I think, take them as read. The reclamation of Kowloon

Marine Lot 49 has now been completed, and except for a final sum of some \$11,500 due to the contractor, is paid for, leaving us in possession of an area of 429,633 square feet over the whole lot. The completion of this work has absorbed such funds as we had out at interest over and above the amounts invested in mortgages, and this fact accounts mainly for the decrease shown on the balance sheet under the heading of Interest. No new reclamation works have been undertaken during the year under review, nor have any sales of land been effected. We are however, able to maintain our dividend of seven per cent. from the balance brought forward from last account, and after payment thereof to carry forward a sum of \$217,100.23, a guarantee of a like dividend for some few years to come, even if no sales be made in the meantime. Before formally moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability any question you may wish to ask.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. PERCY SMITH seconded, and the motion was carried.

The appointment of Mr. C. S. Gubbay to the directorate was confirmed on the motion of Mr. PETER, seconded by Mr. Ho Fook.

On the motion of Mr. Ho Kom Tong, seconded by Mr. Lo Cheung Shui, Messrs. Shellim and Gubbay were re-elected directors.

Mr. ROSS proposed, and Mr. SETH seconded, the re-election of Messrs. Potts and Gourdin as auditors.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Thank you for your attendance, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow on application.

WEST POINT BUILDING COMPANY.

The 21st ordinary meeting of shareholders in the above company was held on Jan. 28th at the offices, Victoria Buildings. Sir Paul Chater presided and there were present Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar, Mr. C. S. Gubbay (directors), Messrs. F. Maitland, A. H. Skelton, J. M. Machado, T. S. Forrest, Ho Kom Tong, Lo Cheung Shui.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, I will with your permission take the report and accounts as read. The lease of the whole of your property being still current, the gross return for rents remains unchanged. Turning to the other side of the profit and loss account you will, however, notice an increased expenditure under the heading "Repairs to buildings," due to the severe typhoon experienced by the colony in July last, and in view of the fact that those repairs are not yet completed, some portion of the costs thereof having to be borne on the accounts for the current year, your directors deem it advisable to pay a slightly decreased dividend for the closing half of 1908 enabling them to carry forward a somewhat larger balance to, in part, meet the expenditure, and therefore recommend a dividend of only \$2 per share, which we trust, will meet with your approval.

There were no questions and the report was adopted on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. MAITLAND.

Mr. MACHADO proposed, and Mr. SHELTON seconded, the confirmation of the appointment of Hon. Mr. Gresson and Messrs Gubbay and Bonnar as directors.

Carried.

On the motion of Mr. FORREST, seconded by Mr. MAITLAND, the re-election of Hon. Mr. GRESSON and Mr. GUBBAY as directors was approved.

The auditor, Mr. J. Cox Edwards, was re-appointed on the motion of Mr. Ho Kom Tong, seconded by Mr. CHEUNG SHUI.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants will be ready on application, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance.

CAMPBELL MOORE AND CO., LD.

The twenty-second ordinary meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at the office of the General Managers in Des Voeux Road on the 29th ult. Mr. J. A. F. Arculli presided

and there were also present Messrs. F. Ellis (director), I. Borrello, A. R. Ellis, A. S. Ellis and A. O'D. Gourdin.

The CHAIRMAN, after reading the notice convening the meeting, said:—Gentlemen. The report and accounts have been in your hands for some days, and, with your permission, they may be considered as read. We are very sorry that the account is so unfavourable. The result is attributed to competition, depression in trade, and mismanagement by the last manager. Since the middle of 1907 and the whole of last year every effort has been made to reduce the stock. The accounts for the year 1908 will be ready very shortly. By the time of the meeting to pass those accounts I think the general manager will be able to give you a better idea of our prospects. The mismanagement of our former secretary and manager has been explained to you before, gentlemen, so it is hardly necessary that I should recapitulate. If there is any other matter that you require explained, I shall do my best to enlighten you.

Mr. GOURDIN passed a remark inaudible to the Pressmen, to which the CHAIRMAN responded—I don't think going into details would benefit anybody.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed the adoption of the report and accounts, as presented.

The motion was seconded by Mr. BORELLO, and carried unanimously.

Mr. F. ELLIS proposed the re-appointment of Mr. A. O'D. Gourdin as auditor.

The CHAIRMAN—I have much pleasure in seconding the motion, and I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of his services, and of thanking him for the great assistance he has given to the Board of Directors.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—Thank you very much for your attendance, gentlemen. I think we can all hope for bright prospects in 1909.

STEAMSHIP PASSAGE RATES.

The following excerpt from the speech of Sir Thomas Sutherland, Chairman of the P. & O. Company, at the last meeting of shareholders, deals with a subject of interest to many in the East at this season of the year:—

Now, as you are aware, there is a surtax of 10 per cent. on Passage rates which was imposed about a year ago by all the principal Lines in the Eastern trade on account of the great rise in Coal and ships' stores of nearly every kind. The question of removing this is ever before our eyes but in the present state of business I cannot hold out any immediate prospect of it being done. The temptation is perhaps rather the other way, namely, to incorporate the surtax in the ordinary passenger tariff, and at the same time to help our passengers who are not too well off, by a cheaper service than we can afford to give them by our mail steamers, and this, in fact, we are doing this very year. I have often replied to the criticism of certain Indian newspapers, and cheap passage association in India, by pointing out that, taking into account our second saloon fares and our return ticket system, the net amount we receive is vastly short of the ordinary first class tariff, and that calculations based on the latter are therefore purely fictitious. I have also explained that the Suez Canal dues in the case of Mail steamers are such that after allowing fully for those dues in the matter of coal and cargo capacity, the residuum deflects about £8 per head on every passenger carried through the Canal by our Mail steamers, a very heavy deduction from each passenger ticket, but my explanations on such points are, of course, ignored by any newspapers which might consider it good policy to be hostile to the Company, for have they not always before their eyes the terrible fact that this Company has paid for several years 13 per cent. on its deferred stock! But this agreeable situation, if I may call it so, is due to the fact that, as everyone knows, we took a favourable opportunity some years ago to reduce our capital to the lowest figure possible, and to raise capital by means of debentures at a very low rate of interest.

SHIPPING NOTES.

The N.Y.K. steamer *Kitano-maru* was launched from the Mitsu Bishi yard, Nagasaki, at 9 a.m. on the 24th instant. Her gross tonnage is 8,600, and her speed 16 knots. The launch of the O.K. steamer *Tacoma-maru* (6,000 tons gross; 14 knots) will take place at the Kawasaki Yard, Kobe, on Feb. 4th. She is the largest cargo-boat ever built in Japan.

The French Mail steamers have had some unfortunate experiences this month, what with the *Polynesian* cutting a Dutch steamer in two at Singapore and the *Sydney* running down a Japanese steamer at Yokohama. In both cases the French steamers themselves appear to have sustained very little damage. The latest news from Singapore is to the effect that several Chinese and Filipino divers have been engaged in removing the cargo of the *Djambi*, which consisted of about 150 tons of tin plate and rails. It was believed that the missing coolies were buried under the tin plates when the ship canted over, as no trace of them could be seen in the first examination by the divers. The private inquiry of the Pilot Board into the circumstances of the disaster was to take place last week.

The Anglo-American Oil Company's steel barge *Comet* has been successfully salvaged and is now at the quarantine anchorage at Singapore, after a week spent on top of a coral reef at Pulo Tujoi, near Sanka. The *Comet* brought a cargo of case oil from San Francisco for Japan and loaded a miscellaneous cargo in the latter country for New York. She was on the way there when on a dark night, heavy winds contrary currents and a rough sea drove her on the reef. She was pulled off by the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company's tug, and having been found to have sustained no serious damages, will shortly continue her voyage to the Atlantic coast.

The strike of the sailors and firemen of the launches and cascoes at Manila, as a result of the shipowners' non-compliance with a demand for increased pay and rations for these men, is stated by the latest papers to be showing signs of collapse, a local shipping master having signified his willingness to supply the owners of the craft affected with all the help needed, and on short notice. Mr. Beck's office on calle San Fernando was besieged by large crowds of men looking for employment on the 22nd inst. and, unless all signs fail, the backbone of what threatened to be a serious affair is broken, and things will be running smoothly within a few days, the ridiculous and exorbitant demands of the native labour agitators notwithstanding.

If we may accept the statements published in the San Francisco papers, we are to see shortly a new Trans-Pacific line of steamships. It is unofficially reported that the Western Pacific Railway Co., has entered into an agreement with the Norddeutscher Lloyd to maintain a service from San Francisco to the Orient in connection with the new trans-continental railway. It has been known for some time, one of the San Francisco papers says, that the North German Lloyd had been making preliminary preparations to place a line of its operation from European ports to San Francisco on the opening of the Panama canal, and it was commented that with the line from here to the Orient, in conjunction with the Western Pacific freight traffic, the German company would be in a particularly strong position with a complete service circling the globe. The entry of this company into the Pacific would be of great significance in the development of the commerce between the Orient and the Pacific Coast. A similar connection is to be made in the north, according to the recent announcement of the Cunard Company that on the completion of the Grand Trunk to the Pacific Coast it would establish a line of its steamers from the Western terminal of the road to China ports.

A Board has for some time past been sitting at Manila considering the pilotage question. The result of the inquiry has just been presented in a lengthy report. One of the first and most important questions considered by the Board was as to whether pilotage should

be compulsory or optional. It is recommended that pilotage for coastwise vessels at Manila shall continue compulsory while foreign pilotage shall be optional, as heretofore. The Board's recommendations are based on the general principle that where conditions of navigation are of such a dangerous character as to render exceptional skill and special knowledge of local waters essential to the safety of vessels immediately concerned and to other shipping, pilotage should be compulsory. The Board, however, recommends that masters and patrons of vessels be permitted to pass an examination and qualify for licenses authorizing them to act as pilots on their own vessels, whereupon such vessels will be exempted from compulsory pilotage fees. This provision will make it optional with owners of vessels as to whether their vessels shall be subject to compulsory pilotage or not. The Board recommends that this privilege be extended to coastwise shipping in the Pasig River and in the Iloilo River. Heretofore, particularly at the port of Manila, the burden of pilotage has been born by coastwise shipping. By providing a nominal fee for berthing and other services rendered to foreign vessels, the Board has been enabled to recommend a lower schedule of pilotage fees for coastwise vessels. The Board has recommended that all pilotage be optional, except at Aparri and at Dagupan.

The charter of the Chino-Siamese Mail Boat Co. Ltd. has been published in the Siam Official Gazette. The head office of the Company is at Bangkok, and it is formed to run merchant steamers between Siam and Singapore, Hongkong, China, and other foreign countries. There is, of course, the usual extensive list of other objects of the company. The capital is Tcs. 3,000,000 divided into 300,000 shares of Tcs. 10 each.

THE KOREAN EMPEROR'S TOUR.

INTERESTING IMPERIAL RESCRIPT.

After having completed his tour in the Southern provinces the Emperor of Korea, our Tokyo correspondent informs us, has now started on a tour on the North. The *Seoul Press* gives the following translation of the Imperial Rescript relating to the Emperor's progress through the southern provinces.

"We think the people the very foundation of a State, and if the base be not solid, a State cannot be in security and peace. Having inherited the Throne with humble virtue from Our father Emperor, We have day and night cherished the wish that Our country be secure from all perilous conditions and its people from misery. We decided to improve Our administration, and swore it in the Imperial Mausoleum in the first year of Our reign. We have since been always scrupulous not to violate the oath, nor have We ever been negligent in Our endeavours to be true to this determination. But nevertheless We regret to note that the suppression of provincial disturbances is slow, and it is still causing great distress to Our children. We can not help feeling dismay and sorrow at this grievous plight of Our country, specially when We reflect that in these days of severe cold, the people's sufferings must be enormous. How, then, can We alone even for a moment bear to indulge in the comforts of Our Throne? We have come to a decision that We accompanied by our Government should begin the New Year with a journey in the interior, in order personally to inspect the actual state of Our land and enquire of Our beloved people as to what life they are living. The Grand Tutor of the Crown Prince, Resident-General Prince Ito is highly faithful in working for Our country, as well as in helping and guiding Ourselves. We remember always with a feeling of deep gratitude toward the Resident-General that in the burning heat of the last summer Prince Ito, in spite of his age and ill-health, made an extensive journey in Japan in company with Our Prince Imperial solely for the latter's sake. Now We ask him to accompany Us in Our journey hereby announced and help Us in discharging Our urgent duties. We thus hope to insure the foundation of this country and rescue Our people from a distressful condition. Let Our subjects, great and small, be aware of Our purpose."

FAR EASTERN TELEGRAMS.

THE JAPANESE DIET.

Tokyo, January 21st.

The Diet resumed its sittings to-day and the Budget was introduced. In the House of Peers Count Katsura, the premier, outlined his policy.

STEAMER WRECK ON THE JAPAN COAST.

Tokyo, January 21st.

The steamer *Adato* for which Messrs. Dodwell and Co. are the agents, stranded at Oshima on Tuesday night in a snowstorm. Her position is reported to be hopeless. The steamer was bound from Yokohama for Hongkong.

[The *Adato*, which belongs to the Ocean Navigation Company, Glasgow, is a steel screw steamer of 3347 tons. She was built at Port Glasgow in 1899.]

*Tokyo, January 26th.

The steamer *Adato*, wrecked at Oshima on the 19th inst. in a snowstorm, has been abandoned by the insurance companies.

THE TOKYO TRAMWAY AFFAIR.

Tokyo, January 21st.

The petition presented to the Home Office by the Tokyo Tramway Co. has been rejected on the ground that the figures given in the petition are inaccurate.

THE COLLISION AT YOKOHAMA.

Tokyo, January 25th.

The Japanese steamer *Iburimaru* had just left the dry dock at Uraga when the collision (reported yesterday) occurred. She sank in fifteen minutes.

The owners place their loss at Yen 150,000. The damage sustained by the French mail steamer *Sydney* was very slight.

KOREAN EMPEROR'S TOUR.

ANTI-JAPANESE MANIFESTATIONS.

Tokyo, January 27th.

The Korean Emperor started on his tour in the North to-day. He returns on the 3rd proximo.

Tokyo, January 28th.

The Korean Emperor's tour to the north is not being characterised with the harmony which was displayed in the south.

On Wednesday at Pingyang the Aid-de-camp of the Imperial suite attacked the Home Minister.

On the previous night explosives were thrown into the Welcome Building, and other manifestations of dissatisfaction with the Imperial House of Korea have been shown.

Strong anti-Japanese sentiment has been displayed, and the itinerary has been partially abandoned.

CANTON FLOWER BOATS BURNT.

GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.

Canton, January 31st.

All the flower boats at Taishatan were destroyed by fire last night, and about 300 lives are reported to have been lost.

APPOINTMENTS.

H. E. the Governor has been pleased to re-appoint under the Medical Registration Ordinance, 1884, (Ordinance No. 1 of 1884), Dr. F. O. Stedman, to be a Member of the Medical Board and to serve as Secretary of the Board with effect from the 7th December last.

Acting Inspector George Sim has been appointed a Sanitary Inspector for Aberdeen.

H. E. the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher to be Deputy Official Receiver with effect from the 25th inst.; also to act as Assistant Colonial Secretary and Clerk of Councils during the absence on leave of Mr. C. Clementi or until further notice, with effect from the 25th instant.

LOCAL SPORT.

NEW FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

A meeting called for the purpose of forming a football association to govern the game in the colony and to be affiliated to the English Football Association was held at the Y.M. A. Rooms on the 29th ult. Practically all of the League clubs were represented as well as the Hongkong Club and Navy teams. Mr. F. Brown was voted to the chair.

Mr. STORRIE, in opening the proceedings, indicated the need for a central agency to control the game in Hongkong, pointing out the difficulties which must arise through having two competitions such as the League and the Shield run separately, and alluding to the propriety of dealing with players when misdemeanours were committed. The speaker also referred to the advisability of obtaining competent referees which could be assured by the formation of an examination body to examine referees.

Q. M. Sergt. ANDREWS regarded the proposition as likely to aid football in the colony and said such an association, representing a fairly powerful body could better approach the Governor with a view to getting additional ground either in Hongkong or in Kowloon. Moreover such an authority would exercise control over the minor leagues.

The CHAIRMAN outlined the scope of the operations of the proposed institution and expressed the opinion that it would do much good. The formation of the League showed that there were plenty of men willing to work in the interests of football. He advocated affiliation to the parent body.

Details were considered and it was agreed that the association could be in operation for next season.

Sapper HEIGH expressed the conviction that the principal consideration was the governing of the game, and pointed out that at present there was no control exercised over players or referees. The most important point was that such an association would include civilian, naval and military teams and a competition in which all could participate could be arranged. The financial position would have to be considered.

Mr. STORRIE suggested that the winners of the *Hongkong Daily Press* Cup play a team representing the rest of the League, making it a charity match. The proceeds, after paying the expense of the association and the expense of the Club in connection with their ground, could be devoted to charity. This would show that they were not running football merely for their own pleasure.

Q. M. Sergt. ANDREWS proposed that a football association to be affiliated to the English Association be formed and that a committee be appointed to draw up rules, and so on.

The CHAIRMAN seconded.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. STORRIE agreed to act as Secretary of the Association and he was instructed to write to football organisations to invite them to come into the union and send two representatives.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the business.

RAJPUTS' SPORTS.

CELEBRATION OF ALI WAL DAY.

The officers of the 13th Rajputs were "At Home" to their friends yesterday, the anniversary of Aliwal Day. The day was celebrated by the holding of the regimental sports on the U. R. S. ground, and there was a very large attendance of spectators, including Major General Broadwood, Colonel Darling, Commodore Lyon, and many ladies. The many events were keenly contested, and a very good afternoon's sport was witnessed. The band of the regiment played a varied programme during the afternoon, and added to the pleasure of those who attended. At the conclusion of the sports the successful competitors received their prizes from Mrs. Camilleri, and three cheers were given for that lady.

The principal events were won as follows:—

Scouts event, six mile race, and writing a road report—Bhur Singh.—Time: 59 minutes.

120 yards race for native officers—Jamadar Singh and Joadh Singh.

Potato and bucket race—Arisal Singh, D. Co.

Half mile for British troops—Lance Corpl. Andrews, the Buffs, 1; Lance Corpl. Reed, the Buffs, 2.

Melee, in which each contestant carried a jar and a stick, and the contest was to break the jars of the other side. Divided after three draws by C and H Co.

Maxim gun contest, won by No. 3 double Co.

Obstacle race, one mile and a quarter, won by H Co. Time: ten minutes. A special prize was given by the officers for this event, and was won by A Co. in 8m 32sec.

Alarm post—B Co. Time: 3m 35sec.

Blindman's buff, in which men blindfolded had to catch a bugler on his sounding his bugle in their midst—Niack Mor Singh, C Co. 1.

THE RACES.

The annual race meeting of the Hongkong Jockey Club takes place at Happy Valley on February 16th, 17th and 18th. The entries in the various events are: Wongneichong Stakes, 33; Maiden Stakes, 20; Victoria Stakes, 19; Valley Stakes, 35; Foochow Cup, 13; Trial Plate, 17; Garrison Cup, 29; Professional Cup, 18; Hongkong Club Cup, 14; Racing Stakes, 42; Jockey Cup, 31; Exchange Plate, 20; The Derby, 16; The German Cup, 34; China Stakes, 23; Lusitana Cup, 18; Challenge Cup, 52; Navy Cup, 34; Parsee Cup, 19; Gymkhana Club Cup, 31; Grand Stand Stakes, 19; Great Southern takes 27; Hongkong Stakes, 50; Ladies Purse, 26; Flyaway Stakes, 18; Phaeton Stakes, 27; Governor's Cup, 38; Consolation Stakes, 40; Nil Desperandum Stakes, 45. The entrants for the Derby are:—

	st.	lb.
Mr. Buxey's <i>Reve d'Or Rose</i>	10	9
Mr. Buxey's <i>Little Gem Rose</i>	10	12
Mr. Buxey's <i>Snowflake Rose</i>	11	1
Mr. Dryadust's <i>Triad</i>	11	1
Messrs. Findlay & Moir's <i>Strathdallas</i>	11	4
Mr. T. S. Forrest's <i>Argyll</i>	10	12
Mr. H. J. Gedge's <i>Fugitive II</i>	11	1
Mr. Olympia's <i>Apollo</i>	10	9
Mr. Olympia's <i>Achilles</i>	11	4
Mr. Ottery's <i>Dart</i> (late <i>Camphor Tree</i>)	10	12
Mr. John Peel's <i>Garth</i>	11	4
Mr. John Peel's <i>Cattistock</i>	11	1
Mr. John Peel's <i>Fernie</i>	10	12
Messrs. Toeg & Speelman's <i>Missouri</i>	11	4
Messrs. Toeg & Speelman's <i>Volga</i>	10	12
Messrs. Toeg & Speelman's <i>Desire</i>	11	4

THE FIRST INTERPORT CRICKET MATCH.

Mr. P. Mollison of Yokohama has been entertaining the members of the local Literary Society with his "Reminiscences." His opening remarks have an interest for many readers in Hongkong. Mr. Mollison said:—

I came out to Hongkong first in the autumn of 1864 and after spending a month between that port and Canton was transferred to Shanghai, where I spent the rest of three years very happily. It is interesting to recall that amongst my fellow passengers to China was the mother of our popular broker Mr. E. C. Coutts, and it gives me all the more pleasure to do so because after becoming a resident of Shanghai, I received much kindness as a youngster from both his father and mother.

One of the incidents of my stay at Shanghai that will appeal most perhaps to my younger hearers of the male persuasion was the first interport Cricket Match between Shanghai and Hongkong, which was played at Hongkong in 1866.

Unfortunately I was unable to join the Eleven, much to my disappointment, though I thereby escaped a terrible amount of leather-hunting in Hongkong. The home side won the toss and kept Shanghai in the field for a day and a half to the tune of some 450 runs. (Laughter.) Of course Shanghai were badly beaten, but they had a magnificent time and got their revenge next year when Hongkong sent up a team to play the return match. On that occasion two matches were played, both of which we won easily, and I had the pleasure and privilege of assisting the home team. As matter of local interest I may mention that Captain Brinkley of Tokyo, now hale and well, was one of the Hongkong

XI., and did yeoman service both with bat and ball. Another member of the team was Lieut. Tanner, afterwards Colonel Tanner, who was drowned with many other enthusiastic and famous cricketers, including Captain Dunn, in the unfortunate *Bokhara* disaster when returning from Shanghai to Hongkong with the cricketing eleven in 1892. The late J. B. Manson, brother of the now well-known London specialist in ailments peculiar to the Far East, was captain of the Shanghai Eleven.

ANOTHER BURGLARY.

Another burglary occurred in a restaurant at 416, Des Vœux Road West, on Wednesday night or early Thursday morning. The thief forced an entrance through a wire screen at the rear of the cook house, visited various rooms in the restaurant and departed with clothing to the value of \$32. Through the smartness of a lukong, however, he was arrested before the police were informed of the robbery. The thief was going aboard a Canton steamer with his spoil when the lukong detained him and requested to know what was in the bundle he carried. The robber answered the questions which succeeded so unsatisfactorily that he was taken to the Central Police Station and charged. There it was discovered that he had also returned from banishment, and yesterday he appeared before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy to answer both charges. He was found guilty on each count and sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour.

FORMOSAN SUGAR.

WITHDRAWAL OF SPECIAL PRIVILEGES.

A Tokyo dispatch to the *Asahi* reports that the Government has given strict instructions to the Formosan Government to withdraw the special privilege accorded to sugar produced in Formosa and to impose excise in rigid conformity with the provisions of law. Sugar produced in Formosa is generally of medium quality, and corresponds to the third quality specified by law. This is liable to excise at the rate of Y8.50 per picul, but by the special privilege extended to the Formosan product, the excise imposed on the latter has hitherto not been more than Y3, the amount payable on the first quality or crude sugar. Under this protective policy, the original cost of Formosan sugar does not exceed Y9.50 per picul, including Y3 excise any Y6.50 for producing expenses and freight. The scheme of the sugar-refining companies Formosa has now been frustrated. They hoped, it is said, to take contracts to sell their production at about Y13.50, reap the profit of Y4 on each picul, and thus pay a dividend at the rate of 20 or 30 per cent. The Formosan sugar refining companies have started a vigorous agitation to force the authorities to withdraw the order. In this campaign they have the assistance of Mr. Fujita Shiro, formerly Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, who is a son-in law of Marquis Inouye.—*Japan Chronicle*.

SHIPPING AT SAIGON.

The Summary of Shipping cleared in 1908 at Saigon shows that vessels flying the British flag far outnumber any others doing business at this port. The figures are:

NATIONALITIES.	TOTAL.	
	No.	Tons.
American	17	14,742
Austrian	1	3,779
British	167	834,593
Danish	6	14,492
Dutch	37	45,150
French	15	35,774
German	75	97,893
Japanese	24	49,263
Norwegian	91	92,619
Russian	1	3,154
Spanish	1	2,655
Swedish	6	8,353
Total	471	698,467
Messageries Maritimes	166	382,207
Messageries Fluviales	26	9,776
Chargeurs Rennis	27	100,330
	589	1,190,780

A PLAIN-CLOTHES LUKONG.

"LOOKING FOR SQUEEZE."

At the instance of two men employed at the Naval Yard, a lukong was summoned before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Jan. 29 on a charge of assault. From evidence adduced it appeared that between three and four o'clock on the afternoon of the 23rd instant the inmates of a house off Queen's Road East were enjoying a quiet game of cards when a lukong appeared on the scene in plain clothes. The tenant of the floor asked him to drink tea, and also asked his business there.

"I want some money to go for a stroll," the lukong is reported to have said.

"Why should I give you any money?" queried the tenant.

The constable did not reply, but asked who gave the men engaged in the game of cards permission to play. Before a reply could be given, it is alleged that the lukong proceeded to attack the residents, and the row which ensued caused a woman to rush out to street and call for help. Her cries attracted an Indian sergeant who considered the best way out of the difficulty was to take all parties to the nearest Police Station.

The lukong made a statement in which he said that another man was coming down the stairs just behind him, and both of them endeavoured to get down first. The constable eventually allowed the other man to pass, and when he got to the bottom of the stairs this man accused him of standing on his foot. A quarrel followed, in which the strange man and a friend beat him.

The Indian police sergeant was then called, and deposed to seeing two men assaulting the lukong.

His Worship was of opinion that the lukong undoubtedly went to this house to get "squeeze" and ordered him to pay a fine of \$5 on the assault charge.

ILLICIT OPIUM TRAFFIC.

An exemplary sentence was passed on a native by Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Jan. 28. The defendant, it was ascertained, had three previous convictions against him for being in unlawful possession of opium, and yesterday he appeared before the Court on two charges of having nearly five taels in his possession without a permit. On the evidence he was found guilty and ordered to pay a fine of \$750, the alternative being six months imprisonment.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.:-

RICE.

HONGKONG, 1st February:—No buyers having come forward the prices are the same as when last reported. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$5.70	to	5.80
" Round, Good quality	\$5.40	to	5.45
" Long	5.61	to	5.65
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	\$5.60	to	5.65
" Garden, " No. 1	5.20	to	5.25
" White,	\$5.30	to	5.35
" Fine Cargo	5.50	to	5.55

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, February 1st.

Quotations are:—			
Malwa New	\$1080	per picul	
Malwa Old	\$1100	do.	
Malwa Older	\$1120	do.	
Malwa Very Old	\$1150	do.	
Persian Fine Quality	\$1000	do.	
Persian Extra Fine	\$680	do.	
Patna New	\$1115	per chest.	
Patna Old	\$1135	do.	
Benares New	\$1060	do.	
Benares Old	\$—	do.	

JAPANESE MARKETS.

IMPORTS.

Kobe, 15th January.—Cotton.—American.—"Forward" quotations for "Middling" have fluctuated with marked upward tendency during the past fortnight, and close strong at Yen 31.40, but no business of importance is reported. "Spot" is nominal Yen 29.00 for new "Middling." Indian.—Prices have risen considerably in sympathy

with American quotations, and large transactions have been done in "forward," but principally in exchange for "forward" Yarn. "Spot" remains quiet owing to small stocks in the market. Broach is quoted Yen 25.00, Akola Yen 22.25, Bengal (new) Yen 21.75. Chinese.—Some "Spot" business has been done latterly, but "forward" is practically at a standstill. Closing quotations are:—Best quality Yen 24.75. Common Yen 21.75. Shirtings.—No new business to record, the large stocks brought over from last year being sufficient for the requirements of this market. Cotton Goods and Fancies.—More general enquiry in Fancies but whites are neglected,—the quantity of orders going through is comparatively small. Worsteds and Woollens.—There has been a little enquiry during the period under review, but the stocks carried over still exert a depressing influence on the market. Metals.—Very little doing. Rice.—Nothing doing.

EXPORTS.

Fish Oil.—Stock small; sellers firm. Rice.—Weak. Cotton Yarn.—Prices have advanced under the influence of more general demand and a steady advance in the price of silver. Vegetable Wax.—Firm with some business doing. Matting.—During the fortnight under review, quotations have been generally weaker, due to the fact that weavers in the Interior have been anxious to convert their holdings into cash in preparation for the closing of accounts for the year (according to the old calendar), deliveries have been good. Straw Braid.—A stronger feeling existed during the past fortnight, owing to a slight improvement in the demand, and prices ruled a little firmer in consequence. Chip Braid.—There has been more enquiry for this, and prices were decidedly firmer during the period under review.

IMPORTS.

The Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade in its fortnightly circular dated the 15th ult. says:—Cotton Yarns.—The market remains in the same latent condition as previously reported. Cotton Piece Goods.—Buyers are showing more interest since the New Year, and a certain amount of business has gone through. There is a decidedly better tone in this market. In Cotton and Union Italians there is nothing doing. Woollens and Woollens Mixtures.—Stagnation still reigns in this market. There has been some business in standard lines, but not to any great extent. Stocks are reported to be still plentiful. Textiles Generally.—With the reassurance due to the feeling that home prices are not likely to go lower, further inquiries have been made and more interest is being taken generally in Cotton Piece goods. Raw Cotton.—The market is lifeless, as Spinners are not yet inclined to pay the higher rates asked by producing countries. Some transactions seem, however, to have taken place in Indian Cotton. Rice.—The market remains in the same lifeless condition. Kerosene Oil.—Arrivals and deliveries for the first half of January show: Standard Oil Co., arrivals nil; deliveries 8,600 cases. Rising Sun Petroleum Co., arrivals nil; deliveries 4,300 units. Metals.—There is nothing special doing. Business in Bars is not expected to revive for some time to come, owing to the rise in home prices which have not yet been followed by the Imperial Steel Works. It is reported that a good many of the merchants are booked up with the Steel Works for several months in advance. Window Glass.—Prices unchanged. Market very quiet. Arrivals are taken up promptly. Sugar.—No business is being done in Imported Refined. Stocks of Java Brown are small. Flour.—Nothing passing in ordinary grades of imported. A little business has been done in certain special quantities. Wheat.—No change. The American market continues firm.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. N. & M. Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 21st January, 1909, states:—As we write business is practically closed for the year. A fairly heavy fall of Snow during the night was all that was required to set the Native mind at rest, and they now cease from their labours for the best part of a week full of hope for a prosperous New Year. Right up to the close most Importers have found clearances quite satisfactory, and a good enquiry, only interrupted when Exchange showed sudden signs of a further upward movement, but they were only transitory and have been followed by an equally sharp drop today. Nevertheless the Native dealers seem to be firmly convinced that sterling rates must go up, though it is difficult to follow on what they base their ideas. The wish, however, may be father to the thought, in order to counteract the altogether unexpected advance of the raw material. The

principal Auctions have been withdrawn this week and will probably not be resumed before the 27th inst. Everything now points to a brisk demand so soon as the holidays are over and the Native Banks have issued their credits. A very favourable feature is the great reduction that has taken place in the price of Rice, China's staple food, which is calculated to make a vast difference to trade generally. Advices from the North, more particularly Newchwang, continue to be of a very satisfactory nature. The Crops in the neighbouring Provinces are the best known for 40 years, and we understand shipments in bulk are being made to Europe, where, presumably, better prices can be got than in Japan. Already shipments of goods and yarn are being made via Dalny, and preparations are being made for further supplies to be sent up immediately after the holidays. There is not much doing here for Tientsin, but we understand quite an extensive direct business has been arranged, on a cash basis, in Manchester goods, chiefly Dyed and Printed Cottons. It is true facilities are being given by some of the regular liners to carry goods there direct and avoid the extra expense of landing and forwarding from this Port. Szechuen is ready and apparently eager to do a big trade for which a lot of ready money seems to be available. The River Ports should soon respond to the better conditions caused by the good crops, and replenish their stocks of all kinds of goods that must be at a very low ebb now. The Manchester market is strong and advancing. There is a greatly improved enquiry for China and quite a considerable business must have been done up to date, but whether buyers for this market are prepared to follow prices up is problematical; in face of the large supplies already here and fair shipments on the way it does not look very judicious. American Cotton continues to advance in Liverpool, the quotations for Middling coming this morning 5.23d sp t and 5.00d April/May. Egyptian is unchanged at 8.7d. The market in New York is soaring! Quotations are steadily rising, in some cases, however, they seem to be put forward as a bluff on account of Manufacturers not having their machinery ready to execute orders promptly. So far this year it is estimated fully 30,000 packages have been booked for this market, and it does not seem possible to secure much more for arrival during the first six months, so that stocks on the 30th June should be very moderate. Cotton is firmer and was quoted according to telegrams received yesterday 9.54 cents for March and 9.40 cents for July option with the rider "further advance probable owing to bull manipulations." To-day, however, the March quotation comes 9.48 cents! The Yarn market is only nominally active, the business booked being chiefly by the brokers in anticipation of orders after the holidays. It is the same way with Piece goods, the purchases made this week of goods "to arrive" being entirely on the off-chance of a demand from the North when the season is properly opened. There are no particulars published of these further forward sales, but they are estimated to amount to fully a thousand packages. A fair amount of fresh business is reported to have been done, chiefly by new firms, in staple makes of Manchester Grey and White goods, which regular Importers appear to be fighting shy of at the prices that have been current. Dyed Fancies have also met with some attention, but Prints are more or less neglected, some classes having succumbed entirely to the coloured woven goods, which have proved much more durable. Smaller quantities were put up at the Yuen Fong Auction last Thursday and a normal tone prevailed, prices reaching their proper level again, the result as compared with the previous sale being one sumptuous advance all round, Woollens included.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 25th January 1909.

Hongkong markets:—	
Apricot	\$16 to 17
Borax	\$17
Cassia	\$29
Cloves	\$32 to 33
Camphor	\$80 to 88
Cow Bezoar	\$70 to 125
Fennel Seed	\$7 to 8
Galangal	\$2 to 4
Grapes	\$15 to 16
Kismis	\$18 to 19
Glue	\$25 to 28
Olibanum	\$2 to 15
Oil Sandalwood	\$300 to 400
" Rosa	\$70 to 100
" Cassia	\$215
Raisins	\$13
Senna Leaves	\$7 to 9
Sandalwood	\$33
Saltpetre	\$10 to 12

EXPORTS:—

SILK.

Yokohama, 15th Jan.:—By the turn of the year quite a large "complimentary business" was done in raw silk with the result that prices for most grades advanced and that "Sinshins" and fine sizes became rather scarce. At the close, our market is again quiet. As most of the factories in the Interior are closing down during the cold weather, arrivals are expected to be much curtailed for the coming months.

WASTE SILK.—Market very quiet. The transaction reported below were entirely complimentary purchases concluded before the turn of the year. Quotations are unchanged. Settlements from December 28th to January 11th, 2,700 piculs. Total Settlements from July 1st to January 11th, 45,550 piculs. Stock on Jan. 12th is estimated at 7,600 piculs.

HABUTAI.—The first part of the month shows an advance in 36 inch Kanazawa goods, but the quotations for other widths are unchanged. The demand from America has increased, but there has not been much doing for Europe. Prices for Echizen have been marked by a considerable firmness and show no change whatever. There has been a good enquiry for the better qualities from all quarters. The recurring market days continue to exhibit weakness in Kawamata and this Habutai is apparently neglected.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG 1st February:—There is no market \$83.50—\$84.50.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HAKKOW, 21st January.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 38.75
Do. seconds	" 33.50
Buffalo hides, best selected	" 22.75
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour,	" —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	" —
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	" 8.70
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	" 8.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen	" —
Jute	" 3.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	" 11.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	" 11.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	" —
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	" 10.60
Animal Tallow	" 11.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	" 15.70
Gallnuts, plum do.	" 17.70
Tobacco, Tingchow	" —
Tobacco, Wongkong	" —
Black Bristles, Rifings	" —
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck	" —
Turmeric	" —
Sesamum Seed	" 5.00
Sesamum Seed Oil	" —
Wood Oil	" 8.70
Tea Oil	" —

Per P. & O. steamer *Sunda*, sailed on 27th Jan. 1909. Antwerp.—300 bales hemp. Glasgow.—50 casks Preserves. Marseilles.—5 cases cocoa. London.—2262 bales Hemp, 200 casks Preserves, 1 pkge Rattan chair.

Per P. & O. steamer *Delhi*, sailed on 23th Jan. 1909. For Manchester.—37 bales waste silk. For Lyons.—20 bales raw silk. For Marseilles.—9 bales raw silk, 2 cases silk. For London.—50 bales pierced cocoon, 50 bales waste silk, 80 pkges tea, 4 cases silks, 7 case cigars, 10 cases Private effects.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 29th January, 1909.—A fair investment business, and a more or less speculative demand for Banks have been the chief features of a rather quiet week. Rates, where they have not improved have in most cases remained steady and a fair demand for

stocks exists at the close. Exchange on London closes at 1/9, T. T. and on Shanghai at 74½.

BANKS.—Hongkong & Shanghai have been in demand and the medium of a fair business, curtailed however by the somewhat erratic rates ruling between this and the North. Locally, business has been done at between 885 and 890 for cash and at 890 for February delivery. The quotation from Shanghai at the end of the week came in firmer at 925, equal to 900 here, and although many offers to sell to the Northern port were refused, and the rate locally was not affected to any extent for some time. There has been at the time of closing some interport business at the higher rate. Shanghai quotes 925, equal to our 900, London remaining at £86.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions have improved to 830 with sales and buyers. A few small lots have also changed hands during the week at 825 and 827½. Cantons have rec'd to 190 with sales and sellers. The Northern Insurances remain unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Hongkongs have found further buyers at 330. China remain neglected, with probable sellers at 106.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong Canton and Macao with the issue of a good report showing increased earnings and improved prospects, have ruled very firm and in demand, buyers at 29½ meeting with but a feeble response. Douglas's have improved to 34, without bringing any shares on the market. China Manillas are on offer at the reduced rate of 12. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have changed hands at 92 and 92½ closing with buyers at 89 ex the dividend of 33½ paid to-day. This Company's report for the year ended 31st Dec. shows a falling off in the net earnings as compared with the 1907 a/c. Repairs a/c. shows an increase of some \$17,000, due to extraordinary damage to properties by the typhoon. The Rent a/c stands at about the same, while Directors fees are less by \$25,530, the Managing Directors fees for 1908 not being chargeable in accordance with the articles of Association. Kowloon Lands have declined to 32, and Humphreys to 9½ with sellers, after small sales at that and at 9. Hotels have found buyers at 9½. West points close with sellers at 44 ex the div. of 32 paid to-day.

REFINERIES.—Small sales of China are reported at 112½ the market closing firmer with buyers at 115. Luzons are on offer at 17, and it is possible that even a slightly lower rate would lead to business.

MINING.—We have nothing to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—H. and Whampoa have been placed at 92 during the week, and at time of closing a few small lots are on offer at that rate. This Company has officially announced that subject to the audit of the accounts, it will pay a dividend for the half year ended 31st Dec. of \$4 per share, carry to special a/c \$21,000, write off The Cosmopolitan Dock \$28,000 and carry forward to new a/c \$384,000, a falling off as compared with previous six months of some \$24,000. Kowloon Wharfs have been placed at 44½ and 45, closing with sellers at the latter rate. Shanghai Docks have improved in the North to 76, and Hongkew Wharfs to 155, the latter with buyers.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewes have improved in the North to 85, and small local sales have been effected at that rate. Internationals have declined to 67, and Laou Kung Mows improved to 76.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have been the medium of a fair business at the improved rate of 11½ and close firm at that. A few China Prov. have been placed at 10, but sellers rule the market. At time of closing Green Island have been dealt in to some extent at 9.90 and 9.80, closing with sellers at the latter rate. Ropes have improved to 25½ with sales and buyers. Langkats have advanced to 875 in the North, China Lights with sales at 4½ close quiet, Laundries have found buyers at 5½ and Bells Asbestos are enquired for at the improved rate of 9.

Quotations are as follows:—

STOCKS	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	all	\$897½, buyers
National B. of China	26	\$51, buyers
Marine Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$190, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$87½, buyers
North China	25	Tls. 105
Union	\$100	\$830, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$177½
Fire Insurances—		
China Fire	20	\$106
Hongkong Fire	50	\$330, sales
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & W. Dock	all	\$92, sales & sel.
Fenwick & Co., Geo	\$25	\$12, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$8½	\$9½, buyers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 76
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$12, sellers
Douglas Steamship	all	\$34, buyers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$29½, sales & buy.
Indo-China S. N. Co.	all	\$37, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$17, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	\$5	\$23½, buyers
Taku Tug & L. Co.	Tls. 50	\$15, buyers
S'hai Tug & L. Co.	Tls. 50	Tls. 45
Do. Preference		Tls. 47½
Refineries—		
China Sugar	all	\$115, buyers
Luzon Sugar	all	\$17, sellers
Perak Sugar Cult...	Tls. 50	Tls. 97½
Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	all	\$45, sellers
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	Tls. 155
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	100	\$89, x.d. buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 120
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$32, sellers
Wei-hai-wei Land and Building...	Tls. 25	Tls. 9
Humphrey's Estate	all	\$9½, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$44, x.d. sellers
Tramways—		
The Peak Tramways	all	\$14
	\$1	\$2
Mining—		
Charbonnages	all	\$590, buyers
Raub	18/10	\$8½, sellers
Hotels Etc—		
Hongkong Hotel Co.	all	\$90, sales
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$16½
Dispensaries—		
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$0	\$9½, sellers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$2, buyers
Lighting—		
Hongkong & C. Gas	all	\$200, buyers
Shanghai Gas Co.	Tls. 50	Tls. 121
Hongkong Electric...	\$10	\$19
Miscellaneous—		
G. Island Cement.	10	\$9.80, sellers
H.K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Bell's Asbestos E. A	12/6	\$9, buyers
United Asbestos ...	\$4	\$12½
	\$10	\$230
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$10
H'kong Dairy Farm	\$6	\$14, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	all	\$220, sellers
Robinson Piano Co.	\$50	\$59, sellers
S'hai Waterworks Co	220	Tls. 437½
H'kong Rope M. Co.	all	\$25½, buyers
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10	\$10, sellers
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	Tls. 5	Tls. 85, sales
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 67
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 76
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 280
China Provident ...	\$10	\$10, sales & sellers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$11½, sales & buy.
Campbell, M & Co.	all	\$9, buyers
Wm. Powell, Ltd. ...	7	\$4, sellers
South China M. Post	\$25	\$24, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$4½, sales
	\$1	
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$5½, sales
Weissmann, Ltd.	\$100	\$140
Cigar Companies—		
Philippine Co., Ltd...	\$10	\$8, sellers
Alhambra, Ltd.	\$50	Nominal

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, February 1st

O. LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9½
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	222
Credits 4 months' sight	225½
ON GERMANY.—On demand	181
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	43
Credits, 60 days' sight	44½
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	132½
Bank, on demand	132½
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	132½
Bank on demand	132½
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	86½
ON MANILA.—On demand	86½
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	75½
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	106½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	12½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	12 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	86½
SWERIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.20
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$59.10
BAR SILVER per oz.	23½

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

January 31—

ARRIVALS.

20, Banchoy, British str., from Chinkiang.
21, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
21, Devanha, British str., from Bombay.
21, Ganges, British str., from Barry.
21, Holstein, German str., from Hoihow.
21, Tamba Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
22, Anping, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
22, Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
22, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from H'phong.
22, Chenan, British str., from Shanghai.
22, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
22, Delhi, British str., from Shanghai.
22, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
22, Empress of China, Br. str., from Vancouver.
22, Shantung, German str., from Bangkok.
22, Yetorofu Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
23, Germania, German str., from Sydney.
23, Keemun, British str., from Manila.
23, Perlak, Dutch str., from Foochow.
23, Shibata Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
24, Aki Maru, Japanese str., from Seattle.
24, Benvorlich, British str., from Shanghai.
24, Chihli, British str., from Haiphong.
24, Choising, German str., from Bangkok.
24, Ghazee, British str., from Singapore.
24, Hinsang, British str., from Wakamatsu.
24, Kueichow, British str., from Proboling.
24, Peleus, British str., from Shanghai.
24, Shinno Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
24, Taishan, British str., from Saigon.
25, Ascania, German str., from Chinkiang.
25, Changsha, British str., from Sydney.
25, Kamo Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
25, Kiangping, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
25, Patroclus, British str., from England.
25, Prosper, Nor. str., from Chinkiang.
25, Protector, Danish str., from Haiphong.
25, Shini Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
25, Tean, British str., from Cebu.
25, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
26, Bourbon, French str., from Saigon.
26, Glenavon, British str., from Shanghai.
26, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
26, Hanoi, French str., from K. C. Wan.
26, Lightning, British str., from Singapore.
26, P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., from Japan.
26, Sunda, British str., from Yokohama.
26, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
26, Tingsang, British str., from Wuhu.
26, Yochow, British str., from Wuhu.
27, Benclench, British str., from London.
27, Haiyang, British str., from Coast Ports.
27, Johanne, German str., from Saigon.
27, Locksun, German str., from Bangkok.
27, Pheumpenh, British str., from Saigon.
27, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
27, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., from Kobe.
27, Tarlac, American str., from Manila.
27, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
28, Joshin Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.

28, Nore, British str., from London.
 28, Quarta, German str., from Batavia.
 28, Seminole, British str., from Swatow.
 28, Standard, Nor. str., from Saigon.

DEPARTURES.

21, Anghin, German str., for Bangkok.
21, Choshun Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
21, Clara Jebson, German str., for Saigon.
21, Dagny, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
21, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
21, Glenstrae, British str., for Shanghai.
21, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
21, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
21, Hopsang, British str., for Saigon.
21, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
21, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
21, Muncaster Castle, Br. str., for New York.
21, Persia, Austrian str., for Singapore.
21, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
21, Sungkiang, British str., for Cebu.
21, Taikoson Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchintzo.
21, Victoria, Swedish str., for Saigon.
22, Devanha, British str., for Shanghai.
22, Kumano Maru, Jap. str., for Manila.
22, Shoshu Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
22, Tamba Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
22, Wakamatsu M., Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.
22, Yeddo, Swedish str., for Shanghai.
23, Delhi, British str., for Europe, &c.
24, Stettin, British str., for Foochow.
24, Perlak, Dutch str., for Balik Pappan.
26, Benvorlich, British str., for London.
26, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
26, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
26, Kamo Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
26, Kohsichang, German str., for Bangkok.
26, Patroclus, British str., for Shanghai.
26, Peleus, British str., for London.
26, Tean, British str., for Manila.
26, Yetorofu M., Jap. str., for Singapore.
27, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
27, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
27, Helene, German str., for Quinhon.
27, Knivsberg, German str., for Pakhoi.
27, P. E. Friedrich, German str., for Europe.
27, Sunda, British str., for Singapore.
28, A. Apcar, British str., for Singapore.
28, Benclench, British str., for Nagasaki.
28, Choyang, British str., for Shanghai.
28, Ghazee, British str., for Shanghai.
28, Glenavon, British str., for London.
28, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
28, Kanchow, British str., for Amoy.
28, Keemun, British str., for Tacoma.
28, Korat, German str., for Bangkok.
28, Shibata Maru, Jap. str., for Osaka.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Tean, from Cebu, Mr Hewett.
Per Bourbon, from Saigon, Mr M. Boyer.
Per Taishan, from Saigon, Mr Wm. Joseph.
Per Choyang, from Shanghai, Mr Friedrich.
Per Telemachus, from Saigon, Dr. Drummond.
Per Devawongse, from Bangkok, Mr Monsier S. Levi.
Per Benvorlich, from Shanghai, Mrs Fowler and family.
Per Chenan, from Shanghai, Mrs Urquhart and two children.
Per Hanoi, from Haiphong, &c., Mr and Mrs Rochas, and Mr Hammond.
Per Haiyang, from Swatow, Mr and Mrs Thompson and 2 children, Dr. Lyell, and Mr Isaac.
Per Haimun, from Swatow, Messrs. W. A. Crake, W. Petley, J. Meek, F. Bevington and C. Kencke.
Per Yuensang, from Manila, Mrs C. Babson and child, Mrs G. Oriora, Miss Adelina, Master Babson and Mr J. Mathews.
Per Aki Maru, from Seattle, &c., Mrs M. Moffatt, Miss Geo. Moffatt, Messrs Pooh Frid'k, Ray Bunjaim and J. C. Gilbert.
Per Lightning, from Calcutta, &c., Mr and Mrs Whelan, Mrs Mackie, Messrs Hunt, E. Hunt, Glass, Goodiski, Kajima and J. B. Brunyate.
Per P. E. Friedrich, from Yokohama, &c., Mr and Mrs A. Roese, Mr and Mrs H. Abbot, Mrs and Miss Hodgson, Mrs L. A. Joseph, Miss Alice Payne, Messrs C. E. Anton, F. A. Joseph, Georges Dallas, Robert Fricke, W. W. Layne, W. H. Birkenough, Manheim, J. W. Bains, Joseph, F. Kofod, James McGregor, J. W. Craft, S. G. Reading, Rev. S. Anderson, V. Sannel and Faek Kicooe.

Per Changsha, from Sydney, &c., Mrs O. Gorman, Mrs. Rifford, Miss Reis, Messrs Richardson, James, Wilson, Everard, Conklin, Cobert, Baring, Dlibitris, Bander and L. Rifford.

Per Sunda, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Hill, Messrs F. W. Poate and D. W. Bell; for London, from Yokohama, Messrs W. Warren and M. D. Bugg; from Kobe, Mr E. Schute.

Per Delhi, from Shanghai, for London, Mr. and Mrs. E. Downes, Col. Pereira; for Marseille, Rev. Thos. Bryson; for Singapore, Capt. T. F. Wright; for Hongkong Dr. Heiser, Dr. Calderon, Messrs D. H. Young, Brother Testus, Brother Archangeles, J. Hayes and G. A. Moir.

Per Empress of China, from Vancouver B.C. for Hongkong, Mr. T. Y. Ko; from Yokohama, Mr. J. M. Tait; from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Johnson; from Shanghai, Mrs. E. McMillan, Mrs. E. G. Rose, Messrs O. Mullen, G. Lion, Lui Chang Yeu, E. Guttentag, A. Newton Smith.

Per Nore, for Hongkong, from London, Mr and Mrs Walker and 3 children, Mr and Mrs G. Fowler, Lt. and Mrs Collison Morley, infant and nurse, Major and Mrs Adair, Mrs M. A. Day, Misses Brautingham and Johnstone, Lt. Jaques and Ast. Eng. Collins; from Singapore, Mr J. Nairn; from London, for Manila, Mr and Mrs Shires; for Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Ball, 2 children and nurse, Messrs Page, B. Piedmonds, J. R. Plinier, Baker, J. S. Braigh, B. G. Atkinson, McGillwray, E. King, C. Jamings, Tilkington, W. B. Bainher, R. M. Hewitt, G. Eunnott, R. Ackwell and Piss; for Yokohama, Mr and Mrs Plant, Mrs Hatahan, infant and nurse, and Mr E. O. Wataler; from Port Said, for Shanghai, Mr Jas. Oliver.

DEPARTED.

Per Rubi, from Hongkong for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. M. Meranda, Miss M. Young, Messrs. D. de Urmeneta, A. C. Grilk, J. W. Hunter, A. W. Barnes, W. G. Baker, A. G. Crawford, W. H. Rushton, Jew Wong Jung.

Per Kamo Maru, for London, Capt. and Mrs F. M. Barber, Mrs M. S. MacDonald and amah, Mrs J. H. N. Mody, 2 children and amah, Mrs Sakurai, Miss M. Corbett, Miss Skipton, Eng. Com. J. H. Steward, Countess Tada, Dr. S. Murachi, Dr. M. Onaka, Messrs F. W. Owen, G. N. Phipps, G. B. Sansom, Shroff, C. G. Kitching, J. Zundel, N. Watanabe, S. Kikkawa, Y. Iyenaga, K. Kikuchi, E. Marks, A. J. Whittingham, C. C. Meyling, D. Theband, K. Horiba, C. Critchley Salmonsan, C. H. Muhunay, G. Hassamall, S. Kuzuya, H. Matsunaga, K. Kawamura, K. Seto, K. Takohara and W. Sato.

Per P. E. Friedrich, for Hamburg, Mr and Mrs R. E. Bellios and servant, Mr and Mrs A. L. Bagnall, Mr and Mrs von Boddien, Mr and Mrs L. P. Ebdon, Mr and Mrs Geodess and children, Mr and Mrs L. B. Hillig, Mr and Mrs Ledebor, Mr and Mrs H. B. Marten, Mr and Mrs Richardson, Mr and Mrs Rittmeister von Rebnitz, Mr and Mrs N. W. Stowell, Mr and Mrs Scholz and child, Rev. and Mrs K. S. Stokke, Dr. and Mrs G. Misch, Dr. and Mrs Weidner, Mrs Dallas and Son, Mrs W. E. Green, Mrs S. P. Hegan, Mrs C. Holthansen, Mrs Macauley, Mrs Vivian, Mrs Webster, Mrs Zacharis, Miss Ilse Boehmcke, Miss E. Buxton, Miss V. J. Head, Miss Koons, Miss Johanna Otto, Miss L. Steinfeld, Miss Skipton, Rev. H. Kuhn, Rev. L. Kuhn, Dr. Janssens, Dr. H. W. Jones, Dr. C. Laleacar, Dr. von Renthe-Fink, Miss Dr. Sus. L. Roons, Dr. Spruyt, Dr. Schwabe, Prof. Dr. Hugo von Tschudi, Capt. Sparke, Messrs Arthur, T. Akashi, A. van Anrooy, K. Branscheid, James D. Barry, W. E. Conklin, Colbert, Bone Donchet, A. E. Drucker, Denny, Fairhurst, Fobes, Jules Glaenger, H. M. Gallagher, Lora McGonagall, A. S. Hewett, Consul Hohlt, Hamilton and family, Robert Hartwig, Lieut. Illyne, Keller, P. Kastner, Prof. K. Koeppling, Francis H. Kettl, C. K. Loo, Prof. Max. Ernst Mayer, Malcolm, Wm. L. Mayo, Neckel, Dir Prinzborn, Maurice Richard, Carl E. W. Roth, S. Salomon, F. H. Sethna, B. B. Smith, Trebing, J. H. Tobias, James Webster, C. M. Washington, G. S. Wallis, Wittenberg and family, and S. Ypes.

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